THE TIMES

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Hostels to be set up in every town

Network of homes for lone mothers

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

A NATIONAL network of special hostels to house teenage mothers, with a home in most towns, is being planned by the Government. Grandparents might also be paid to look after the illegitimate children.

Ministers believe that hostel life would give single mothers companionship and prevent hem leading isolated lives in a ouncil flat or bed-and-breakfast accommodation.

But they are aware that critics will see the idea as a return o Victorian days when "fallen women" were sent away to large safe houses, and they insist that no one would be forced into a home against her will. Rather, the aim is to allow women to use the hostels for a transition period to help them to move from a life on benefit into work, and places might be available for girls deserted by their boyfriends, the homeless, or for those who cannot live with their families.

They would have access to health visitors and would also be offered child care to allow study at a local college or training for a job.

The hostels network would be part of an action plan to deal with a growing problem that has left Britain with one of the highest proportions of unmarried teenage mothers in the world.

Whitehall's social exclusion unit is to put forward a number of ideas a report to the Prime Minister by the end of next week, and a final blueprint for change is expected before Easter.

Other elements might include cash incentives to encourage parents to help to rear their grandchildren. Officials have found that the children of teenage mothers brought up within the extended family are tend to be have good health and do better at school.



Ministers have looked at the whole gamut of teenage pregnancy, and other recommendations will include greater advice on contraception as well as more information for both boys and girls about commitment in personal relationships.

An early lookout system in schools would aim to give girls most vulnerable to becoming young mothers — often those struggling with their work or uninterested at school - extra attention. They might also be given special lessons by former teenage mothers to dispel any myths that a baby is a glamorous accessory or a route to greater independence.

Girls discovering that they are pregnant would be given advice on the choices they face, including adoption and termination.

One minister said last night: "We are determined to be flexible and to offer a range of help to young mothers who find themselves in many different circumstances."

A broad approach was also advocated before Christmas in a special research project *Teenage Mothers - Decisions and Outcomes* by the independent Policy Studies Institute.

That found that most teenage mothers became so by accident. Professor Isobel Allen, a joint author of the report, said: "I favour a broad approach there is no single solution. The real challenge will be to provide extra child care and for many more opportunitites for study, training, and retraining for the mothers to get into jobs."

The report was prompted by Tony Blair who is alarmed by the scale of teenage pregnancy in Britain. A recent American survey showed that 87 per cent of the 41,700 babies born to 15 to 19-year-olds in Britain were outside marriage, compared with 62 per cent in the United States and just 10 per cent in Japan.

Figures published by the Government before Christmas confirmed that more than 94,000 teenage girls give birth in Britain every year, including 9,000 aged under 16.

While 31 out of 1,000 livge births in Britain were to women under 20, the comparable West European figures were sevennin Swizerland, nine in France, eight in Italy, and seven in The Netherlands.

Mother and child, page 2

Ulster peace 'in jeopardy' after Ahern's IRA remarks

By Audrey Magee and Jill Sherman

BERTIE AHERN, the Irish Prime Minister, was last night accused of jeopardising the Northern Ireland peace process after suggesting that Sinn Fein be barred from sitting in Ulster's new government until the IRA began to decommission its weapons.

On the eve of today's debate on Northern Ireland's new assembly, Mr Ahern publicly sided with Unionists and insisted that the IRA hand over weapons before Sinn Fein is allowed to sit on the executive.

But Sinn Fein was so angered by the comments that the Irish Government was forced to back down and say that Mr Ahern's remarks had been misinterpreted.

All sides voiced fears that the comments, designed to give impetus to today's discussions, could backfire and destablise the peace process. The Northern Ireland Office and Downing Street, while privately encouraged by the remarks, kept a low profile, refusing to get involved in such a sensitive issue.

Mr Ahern faced criticism in Dublin and is expected to come under intense pressure in the Irish Parliament to explain himself. John Bruton, Fine Gael leader and a former prime minister, said: "The Taoiseach has said two completely different things on the most sensitive political issue currently facing this country."

David Ervine of the Progressive Unionist Party said: "I hope he knows what he's doing. If he's successful in helping to break the impasse then that would be great.

"But the danger is: what if it doesn't succeed and we have a retreat from the agreement by Sinn Fein and the Provisional IRA? That would be as bad as having a retreat from the agreement by Unionists."

Mitchell McLaughlin of Sinn Fein said the comments were "a very, very serious development indeed".

Sinn Fein was particularly furious because it has always regarded Mr Ahern as the leader of Irish nationalism and an ally.

But Mr Ahern, having failed to secure written or verbal guarantees from Sinn Fein on a start date for decommissioning, decided to take a tougher line publicly than previously. His comments were the clearest indication yet that the Irish Government is losing patience with the Provisionals.

In an interview with *The Sunday Times* he made clear that it was impossible for Gerry Adams and his colleagues to take up ministerial seats in the new administration unless guns and explosives were handed over.

"Our view is that decommissioning in one form or another has to happen. It is not compatible with being a part of a government, and part of an executive, if there is not at least a commencement to decommissioning," he said.

Sinn Fein leaders held frantic telephone calls with Dublin while Mr Ahern went to Sunday Mass, leaving his officials to defend him. But Mr Ahern sought to placate Sinn Fein last night and told RTE news that his position on decommissioning had not changed.

He said: "I never used the word 'barred'... I have had so many meetings with Sinn Fein that they know precisely what the Government's position is."

BOZO VUKICEVIC/AP



Jacqueline O'Rourke, 28, an Army staff sergeant, and John Walker, 27, a petty officer in the Royal Navy, were among scores of couples to marry on St Valentine's Day yesterday.

Valentine's Day brides

Their wedding was on the Royal Fleet Auxiliary support ship *Fort Grange*, moored off the Croatian port of Split. The vessel serves peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, and as no local leave is allowed, the couple will spend their honeymoon on a training course on the island of Brac where they will be able to practise their hobby of scuba-diving.

In Britain, register offices in several towns opened for the first time on a Sunday to mark St Valentine's Day. There were 20 weddings at Wandsworth in South London and 16 in Southampton. The chapel at Gretna Green also opened for business.

Boy, 2, and his father snatched

A British oil worker, Martin Westbury, and his two-year-old son were taken hostage yesterday by armed youths who commandeered the speedboat they were boarding in Nigeria. The youths are believed to have demanded money. Another Briton, Jim Simpson, was taken hostage by youths last week and has still not been freed.

US hint at Kosovo autonomy deal

From Tom Walker in Rambouillet, France

MADELINE ALBRIGHT suggested yesterday that the ethnic Albanian delegation at the Kosovo peace talks was ready to sign the Contact Group proposal for an autonomous province within Yugoslavia.

"Based on my talks with the Albanians they recognise that the plan is a fair deal," she said after a hectic day in Paris in which international pressure mounted on Belgrade to adopt a more conciliatory negotiating line that could stave off the threat of Nato airstrikes.

A new form of wording enshrining Kosovo's place within Yugoslavia was being formulated in an attempt to mollify the Serbs, diplomats said.

Earlier in the day European ministers agreed a provisional aid package for Kosovo worth 500 million euros (£350 million), aimed at reconstruction and refugee rehabilitation. Contact Group ministers then swiftly agreed to allow the peace talks to continue for a further week, with the deadline for a final deal now set for next Saturday.

Mrs Albright, in combative mood, began her day by calling both the Serb and Albanian delegations together at the Chateau Rambouillet — their first direct meeting in a week. She told President Milutinovic of Serbia that his country was again at the brink of disaster, but she also reassured the Serbs that Kosovo's independence was not under discussion.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that Russia appeared to join a Nato-led force, probably to be called KFOR, as long as both Serbs and Albanians signed the peace plan.

Winter kit, page 11
Leading article, page 19

Village shocked by deaths

By Adrian Lee

A RETIRED teacher and her husband were found dead at their Oxfordshire village home yesterday, shortly before they were due to attend their weekly church service.

Joan Lawrie was found in her bedroom, while her husband Martin's body was on the patio below. Both had suffered massive head injuries.

The couple are believed to have died on Saturday, but the alarm was not raised until 11am yesterday when the Lawries' next-door neighbour saw a body on the patio and thought Mr Lawrie had collapsed in his back garden.

But when ambulancemen arrived, they found that both Mr Lawrie and his wife were dead. Mrs Lawrie not only had serious head injuries, believed to have been inflicted with a hammer, but her neck had also been slashed.

The motive for the deaths was not clear last night, but a police source said: "We have not launched a murder inquiry." It was believed that there may have been some sort of domestic dispute and that Mr Lawrie may have fallen from an upstairs window.

The Lawries, both in their seventies, had been married for more than forty years and had a daughter and a son.

They were respected members of Freeland Methodist Church, which they attended church every week, and yesterday afternoon the Rev Stainer Smith said prayers for the couple. He told a congregation of about 20 that the "shattering news" had devastated the village.

"Martin and Joan were such lovely, wonderful people, who gave their life to God and we gather here bemused, perplexed and bereaved."

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Off-piste skiing banned in avalanche alert

By Adam Sage

FRENCH authorities are threatening off-piste skiers in the Alps with criminal proceedings as part of a safety clampdown in the busiest week of the year.

Skiers, walkers and climbers found off-piste in the Chamonix valley will be arrested when they return to their hotels and fined as part of the crackdown, which comes after a week in which 19 people died in the region.

The avalanche danger is rated at maximum after the heaviest snowfalls for 50 years, and the French authorities have issued a special warning to the 50,000 Britons are expected to head for the Alpine resorts for the half-term holiday. Sergeant-Major Gilles Trousselier of the Chamonix gendarmerie said: "We advise everyone, but notably the British, to be especically vigilant because there are many accidents that can be avoided.

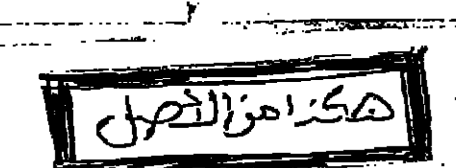
"The British may not be more reckless than anyone else, but they are less well informed about the weather conditions and so they are more dangerous. They must find out what the conditions are like before going off on their snowboards or up the mountains."

At least six Britons have died in the French Alps over the past two weeks, including Catherine Ovington, 26, from Cheltenham, who was caught in an avalanche on Friday after staging an off-piste snow-boarding race above Val d'Isère. She was hit by a 150ft wall of snow travelling at about 80 mph.

Ms Ovington's death was one of a series of incidents which prompted the bylaw banning off-piste skiing, climbing and walking in most of Haute-Savoie county, apart from some slopes above the resort of Chamonix. Offenders caught off-piste in the next three days face a fine of up to £100.

The Haute-Savoie Prefecture said that it had ordered rescue teams, who patrol the mountains by helicopter, to notify police and the gendarmerie of off-piste skiers. They would be arrested when they returned to their hotels.

However, the move brought immediate protests in Chamonix, where ski lift operators threatened to strike in protest while hotels, restaurants and other businesses expressed concern about the loss of custom.



Train delays blamed on demand

Arthur Leathley *says rail managers are braced to clash with John Prescott next week over punctuality*

RAIL passengers face the prospect of longer delays or fewer trains as the railway industry wrestles with a growing congestion crisis.

Senior rail managers will warn John Prescott next week that his demands for immediate improvements in punctuality are unrealistic, given his calls for train firms to carry record numbers of passengers.

The rail industry is braced for a stormy public meeting with Mr Prescott on February 25, at which he will lambast some firms for running too many late trains. But senior managers will use the meeting to point out additional problems caused by the Transport Secretary's demand for a 15 per cent increase in passenger miles by 2002. They say that each one per cent increase in passenger numbers leads to a 2.5 per cent increase in delays because of the higher volume of trains.

Train companies will argue that a reduction in frequency is a key short-term solution to the punctuality problems ahead of a huge investment programme by Railtrack. Passenger groups are already resigned to a reduction in services by some companies with punctuality and cancellation problems.

Operators will tell Mr Prescott that he should be wary of making unrealistic demands for punctuality improvements until rail bottlenecks are eased over the next five years. Although plans will be announced next week to clear up 50 bottlenecks, several of Britain's busiest commuter companies are drawing up proposals to remove trains from service to ease congestion. Most of the worst congestion blackspots are around London, in Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, Glasgow, Bristol and on the busy East Coast and West Coast mainline routes.

Rail executives expect to hit a post-war record for passenger journeys in the next two years, although the network is only half the size it was at the previous peak in 1947.

"It is time to be realistic about what can be achieved," said one director of a London commuter service. "We have increased the numbers of passengers, and trains, but we get clobbered evey time there are more delays. The only solution is to cut the number of trains." However, train firms' franchise agreements forbid any reduction below British Rail levels.

Although Railtrack has a £17 billion investment programme to improve the network, including some 80 congestion blackspots, many of the most serious changes will not be completed until 2004.

Gerald Corbett, Railtrack chief executive, said that the company was drawing up an urgent hit-list of the worst trouble-spots to reduce delays. Almost 2 million minutes' delay is caused by problems at 84 heavily used blackspots. "We are getting much better at identifying the problem areas. The problem is that the industry didn't plan as well as we could have done for growth."

Railtrack will fall slightly below its target of reducing its own delays by 7.5 per cent this year, partly because of increased delays on the heavily congested London lines and poor maintenance work on the Great Western line between London and South Wales. However, it is expected to escape a fine from the rail regulator, although the sanction could be used if he is not satisfied with Railtrack's efforts.

Chiltern Railways, which runs services from Birmingham to London, will be the first to reduce train frequencies — by 10 per cent — despite a 15 per cent increase in passenger demand.

Clarke warns Tories not to drift further to the Right

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke warned the Tories yesterday not to drift further to the Right in an attempt to revive the party's fortunes. He urged William Hague to bring forward new policies and to start selling the party more positively.

The former Tory Chancellor's comments came as Tony Blair suggested that Mr Clarke should become leader of the Conservative Party and overturn its Eurosceptic policy.

Mr Clarke welcomed Mr Hague's visit to the US to meet George Bush Jr, the Republican governor of Texas, who swept to power on "compassionate conservatism".

Asked about the Tories' perceived drift to the right since Mr Hague took over from John Major as party leader, Mr Clarke said: "I'm very glad that William Hague has made his visit to Texas to discover that this is not the approach that George Bush Junior, the most successful centre-Right politician, has adopted."



Clarke: said Hague must sell the Tories positively

Mr Clarke told BBC Radio 5 Live that those in the party who were "tempted to believe that following Newt Gingrich and having clear blue water between ourselves and new Labour" should take note. He also said that people wanted "strong Government", but not along Blairite lines.

In an interview with the *Sunday Telegraph*, Mr Blair said that he believed Mr Hague would be removed as Tory leader because he had failed to resolve the party's internal split over the single currency.

When asked whether he hoped that Mr Clarke would defect to the Labour party, Mr Blair said: "It's in the interests of the country that people like Ken Clarke take back the Conservative party. It's not in the interests of the country that the Conservatives are moving further and further to the Right."

Mr Clarke, who has never ruled out leading the Tories, said that 1999 was the year in which his party had to make comebacks in the European and local government elections, rediscover its purpose and start selling itself more effectively. But he said that the "permanent hectic reporting of political events" made the Conservatives' task even more difficult.

"If the Opposition don't instantly revive they then get into extremely bad publicity for not doing so," he said.

Derrll McNealance



Sami Khatun and her son Ashaan: she wanted "to be loved by somebody"

When mother is little more than a child

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

COMING to terms with motherhood before they have had the opportunity to develop their own adult identity poses acute problems for many teenage mothers.

When she had her first child at the age of 16, Sami Khatun had little self-confidence and virtually no knowledge about childcare.

She became pregnant, she said, because she wanted "to be loved by somebody".

"I wanted to give my love to somebody, someone that nobody could take from me," she added.

She got married after her father had died and she had been living in care for a year. Soon after her marriage she became pregnant, hoping that a child would help cement her relationship with her husband. It did not. He left a week after her son, Robbie, was born.

"I did not know how to be a mother — what to do if my child had nappy rash or if he was teething, sometimes he just seemed to be crying," she said.

Ms Khatun, now 22, lived with her mother immediately after Robbie was born, but moved into her own flat by the time she was 17. "I don't think my mum really understood — she wanted me to do everything her way," she said.

Three years ago, Ms Khatun had a second son, Ashaan. She has been helped since then by a pioneering voluntary organisation, Newpin, which runs 16 day centres for parents throughout the country..

Ministers have been impressed by Newpin's approach. Run mostly by mothers who have themselves had to cope with stressful parenting experiences, Newpin aims to break cycles of destructive family behaviour. It offers training in parenting skills, family play programmes and support and advice for parents in a friendly and non-judgmental atmosphere.

Ms Khatun attends the Newpin centre in Hoxton, north London, most days of the week, where she meets other mothers and receives training and support. It has helped restore her self-esteem and given her ambitions for the future.

"I was becoming really isolated before I came here. I went to a playgroup after I had my first son, but they took one look at me and asked me if I was his sister. I did not feel welcome.

"Now, at Newpin, I am about to do a personal development course, learning about building up my confidence — Ashaan's father used to put me down all the time. After that I want to do a health and social studies course and then I want to do voluntary work with teenagers," she said.

She is unenthusiastic about some of the Government's proposed plans for teenage mothers, and feels there would be significant stigma attached to a stay in a special hostel or mother and baby unit for teenagers.

"In a mother and baby unit you would feel you were being judged and looked down upon. You would have to do everything by their rules and they could treat you like a child," she said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lockerbie extradition anticipated

Britain said at the weekend that attempts to extradite the two Lockerbie suspects to stand trial in The Netherlands "could be approaching the end game".

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, voiced strong hopes that a breakthrough was imminent, following reports by Saudi Arabian and South African mediators that Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, had agreed that the two suspects, Abdel Baset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamine Khalifa Fhimeh, could serve their sentences in Scotland if convicted.

Edward 'title'

A report that Prince Edward will become Duke of Windsor upon his marriage to Sophie Rhys Jones in June was dismissed as "wild speculation" by Buckingham Palace. The Prince, who produced a television documentary on the last Duke of Windsor in 1996 entitled *Edward on Edward*, is said to be fascinated by the life of his great-uncle Edward VIII, who took the title after abdicating in 1936.

Plea to Princess

The Princess Royal was yesterday urged not to resign from the International Olympic Committee by the other British member of the body. Craig Reedie, who is also chairman of the British Olympic Association, said the Princess could have a "very valuable role" in the restructuring of the organisation, which has been hit by bribery scandal. There have been hints that the Princess is reviewing her IOC membership.

Tank death

Army experts are examining a tank which was being driven by military enthusiasts when it rolled over, killing a woman and injuring her husband and two other men. The 17-tonne armoured vehicle was negotiating a sharp bend on a moorland road near Buxton, Derbyshire, on Saturday, when it rolled 20ft down a steep bank into a field. The woman, who was in her 20s and came from Milton Keynes, died instantly.

No consultants

Nearly 10 per cent of doctors who have been studying to become specialists have been unable to take their final exams because no consultants are available to test them. Nearly 100 candidates who had been studying for more than five years to become members of the Royal College of Physicians were expecting to take their finals last month. Instead they will now have to wait until May.

Dirty dozen?

Officials of Rotherham's Rosehill Press League are investigating a complaint that a pub team, Dene Brook, played with 12 men when it won only its second match of the season. League secretary Don Mathews said: "It's amazing really that they seem to have played the whole match with an extra man on the pitch. What makes it even more bizarre is that the referee noticed nothing wrong."

Row over marriage tax

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservatives last night hit out at reported government plans to abolish the married couples' tax allowance, claiming it should be strengthening marriage.

It will be followed up today by a campaign suggesting that Labour has introduced £40 billion of tax rises "by stealth". The Treasury refused to comment on reports that the Chancellor was to announce the abolition of the tax allowance in his March Budget. The move would, however, be consistent with the Government's steps so far to reduce the value of the allowance, which will fall again in April.

Francis Maude, the shadow chancellor, said that the abolition of the married couples' allowance would send the wrong signals to the country. "The married couples' allowance is virtually the last recognition in the tax and benefits system of the special status of marriage and the importance of it," he said.

As part of the new campaign, Mr Maude will list backdoor taxes which he claims will raise the tax burden by £40 billion by the end of the next Parliament, including the phasing out of MIRAS, cutting pension fund tax reliefs by £5 billion and raising petrol duties.

Ministers accused in food row

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Government was yesterday accused of misleading consumers by claiming that only four types of genetically modified foods are on sale to the public in Britain. Another 13 enzymes have been licensed, says the pressure group GeneWatch, which obtained its information from the food manufacturing industry.

The genetically modified rennet used to make vegetarian cheese is now also used in the production of much of the British hard cheese in shops, but the Government has insisted that only four types of genetically modified foods are on the market in Britain.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, in an MPs' briefing on February 10, said: "There are four GM products on sale in the UK; tomato paste, vegetarian cheese, soya and maize", but GeneWatch has obtained a list of another 13 enzymes made by genetically modified micro-organisms for use in food processing. The list was provided by the Association of Manufacturers of Fermentation Enzyme Products.

Like the rennet substitute which was created for vegetarian cheese, the other enzymes are used to process food but will have disappeared by the time it is eaten. Since ministers have included vegetarian cheese when informing consumers which genetically modified products are on sale, GeneWatch believes they should have disclosed the missing 13.

Ministers have been accused of playing down the importance of the rennet substitute, called chymosin, by describing it as an ingredient of "vegetarian cheese".

Sue Mayer, director of GeneWatch, said: "It's strange that the Government is saying 'vegetarian cheese' when other cheese is made the same way. We are concerned that the full facts should be there for people."

Lib-Dem contender would negotiate with Tories

David Rendel might take party on new path, writes **Mark Inglefield**

ONE of the possible contenders to take over from Paddy Ashdown has committed what these days is a heresy among Liberal Democrats: David Rendel has declared that if no party won an overall majority in the Commons he would be ready to do a deal with the Conservatives.

"If there was no majority I think we would certainly need to consider negotiating possibly with both parties," he says. So if he became Liberal Democrat leader, would he be prepared to abandon Mr Ashdown's and Tony Blair's dream of a centre-left alliance? "It would be hopeless to say 'we would inevitably negotiate only with Labour'; it entirely depends on the parliamentary arithmetic."

The candour is refreshing, even if it goes against what Mr Ashdown has been saying since Mr Blair became Labour leader in 1994. But it's probably a smart move. If Mr Rendel has a problem it is that few people know who he is.

This may change. One of his supporters suggested last week that the other hopefuls would drop out "quite soon" and it would become a "two-horse race between Charles Kennedy and David. If he raises his profile it could be a close-run thing."

If he enters the contest — and he has yet to decide — Mr Rendel will have his work cut out beating Mr Kennedy, the party's ubiquitous media darling. But Mr Rendel, 49, is relaxed about this. "I don't set out to wow the masses," he says. "But I think it would be a pity if the leadership is determined over who appears best on *Have I Got News For You*.

"What's clear is that those who've appeared in the past most on television will in effect start at an advantage," he says. "But by the time the election takes place there will be a lot of people among the potential candidates who will be vastly better known than they are now."

He very much hopes, he says, that the leadership contest, which will take place when Mr Ashdown stands down in June, does not turn into an almighty scrap.

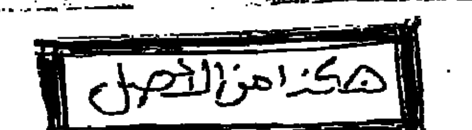
Mr Rendel entered the Commons in 1992, with a huge majority in the Newbury by-election that followed the death of the sitting Tory MP; before that he worked as a middle manager for various big companies. His wife is a GP in his constituency.

Mr Rendel is an Old Etonian and a former Oxford rowing Blue. Could his background count against him? "It definitely doesn't seem to have worked against Old Etonians in the past," he observes. "Two of our last four leaders have been old Etonians — Jeremy Thorpe and Jo Grimond."

Indeed, it was his comfortable background that led him towards a career in politics. "I always felt that I had a duty in a way to give back something of what I've been given."



Rendel: Old Etonian



For you, the war should be over

German minister and British historians clash over national myths, reports **Tony Paterson**

BRITISH historians defended the nation's feelings over the Second World War yesterday, after a leading German politician complained that the language of the 1940s was still being used to decry his country.

Michael Naumann, Culture Minister in the Social Democrat-led Government of the Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, accuses the British press of an "almost grotesque" portrayal of Germany as a nation in which "a new fascist government might come to power and march all over Europe again". Speaking to *The Times* yesterday, he added: "I totally agree that without England's finest hour, I probably wouldn't be talking to you. The question remains whether the picture of Germany should remain for ever ensconced and embalmed in the myths and phrases of World War Two.

"Think of poor old Franz Beckenbauer, one of the most elegant players in the game [of football] and the only metaphor you had available for him was to call him a panzer."

He also claimed the British had wrongly elevated Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, the Desert Fox, into a superhero. Herr Naumann, 55, had said: "There is only one nation in the world that has decided to make the Second World War a sort of spiritual core of its national self, understanding and pride."

However, Alan Clark, the military historian and Conservative MP whose works include *Barbarossa — Soviet German Conflict*, said: "The Germans would probably have made it the centre of their spiritual core if they had been victorious."

Peter Clarke, Professor of Modern British History at Cambridge, and author of *Hope and Glory: Britain 1900-1990*, said: "I think all nations have some part of their history which becomes a crucial part of their national myth, and hence of their sense of identity. For the French, the French Revolution is central. It may well be true that the Second World War, which was a pivotal moment for Britain, does loom bright and large. I don't think it's anything deplorable as long as it is not a purely nostalgic, back-looking creation."

John Keegan, former senior lecturer in war studies at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, whose books include *A History of Warfare* and *The Second World War*, said: "We are obsessed with the war. On the other hand, we have a right to be obsessed because, although we were lucky to be an island, we were the only people who did the right thing in 1940. The whole of Europe, with a few honourable exceptions, collaborated with the Germans. If it hadn't been for us, we would have a European Union of a very much nastier sort. For the last 40 or 50 years, the Germans dare not say things like that. This is an expression of renewed German self-confidence, probably having to do with the fact that the euro is now in place."



David Astor, the former *Observer* editor, who served in the war with the Royal Marines and was awarded the Croix de Guerre, said: "We probably do go on thinking of them as Jerries. In a way it was our high spot.

"Standing alone against the Nazis, we were in an incredible situation. I can quite understand how the Germans are a country that wishes to forget the last war more than anybody else." Herr Naumann said that Britain was a country in which interpretations of the Second World War had become mythologised and that publishers and newspapers continued to churn out huge amounts of material about the period.

He said the that British media's erroneous portrayal of the German Second World War army as a superior military force had provided the British with an "extremely heroic" notion of themselves. "The picture of this nation is almost grotesquely defined. Particularly during the Thatcher years, the British press played on lingering fears that a new fascist government might come to power and march all over Europe again. This totally underestimates the trauma of the Third Reich," he said.

Reflecting the views of Chancellor Schröder, Herr Naumann said that he was particularly irritated by recent attacks in Britain's tabloid press on Germany's left-wing finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine. In one front-page article in *The Sun*, Herr Lafontaine was described as a "Gauleiter" and "the most dangerous man in Europe" after he suggested that tax rates throughout the European Community should be harmonised.

"Running around calling people in government Gauleiter — when they were only two years old when the war ended — is extremely offensive. I say 'Stop, don't do this. It only alienates our nations'," he said.

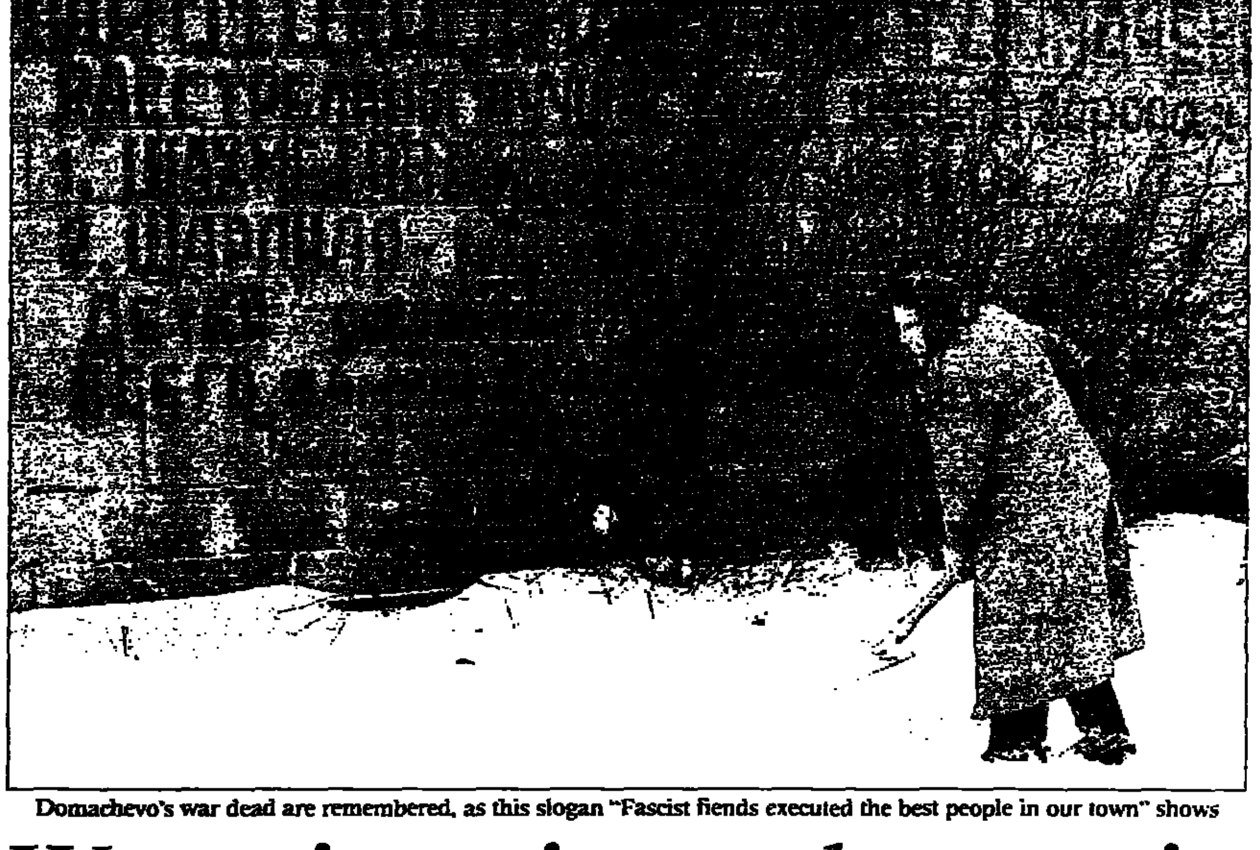
> "The Germans would probably have made the Second World War the centre of their spiritual core if they had been victorious"

Herr Naumann, who has lived in Britain, said that it was the British press and not the public or Government that had failed to come to terms with World War Two. "Fleet Street's view has very little to do with the overall mood of the nation. I simply do not believe in the automatic identity of a headline maker with the national psyche," he said.

Herr Naumann said that Germany had no difficulty coming to terms with the legacy of the Second World War and had been successful in safeguarding democracy. "The German nation has done a good job in suppressing a resurgence of Nazism in political life. However that does not mean that Nazis do not exist."

☐ Authorities in the eastern German city of Guben yesterday staged an anti-racist protest after a 28-year-old Algerian asylum seeker was chased to his death by five neo-Nazi youths. The man bled to death after slashing open a leg on a glass door in a block of flats while trying to flee his tormentors early on Saturday. Five youths aged between 17 and 18 were still in police custody yesterday.

Beckenbauer the "panzer" and "over-rated" Rommel



Domachevo's war dead are remembered, as this slogan "Fascist fiends executed the best people in our town" shows

War-crimes jurors know trip to Belarus is no holiday

Alan Hamilton on an Old Bailey trial that has moved to Eastern Europe

FOR the first time in British legal history, a jury hearing a criminal case left the country yesterday to hear and see first-hand evidence abroad.

The eight men and four women, accompanied by Mr Justice Potts, prosecution and defence legal teams and officials from Court 12 at the Old Bailey, boarded a British Airways scheduled flight to Warsaw on the first stage of a journey to the former Soviet Republic of Belarus.

Only the defendant was missing. Anthony Sawoniuk, 77, a retired British Rail ticket inspector from South London who faces four specimen charges of murder, was not required to return to his native town of Domachevo, close to the Polish border, where the Crown alleges he participated in the extermination of Jewish men and women during the German occupation of Western Russian in 1942.

Juries in normal criminal cases are carefully guarded to ensure they do not talk about the case while it is in progress. Taking the 12 abroad has involved a major undertaking to preserve their *cordon sanitaire*. The jurors assembled at a London hotel on Saturday night before being taken by coach to Heathrow yesterday morning to fly to the Polish capital.

They sat together in business class, interspersed with the ushers and court officials looking after them. Mr Justice Potts sat at a window seat for the 2½-hour journey.

When the aircraft landed at Warsaw the jurors were kept in their seats while other passengers disembarked and went through passport control. Only after the other travellers, including a group of journalists and cameramen, had cleared the terminal building were the jury escorted off the aircraft. They were taken to a hotel in central Warsaw where an entire floor had been reserved. Polish police had offered to guard the floor but court officials said this would not be necessary.

Today they board a coach for a three-hour journey thourgh Eastern Poland to cross into Belarus at the frontier town of Brest. There they will spend another night in a hotel before being taken tomorrow morning to Domachevo. Judge and jury will spend several hours in the town, being shown a number of relevant sites. While in Belarus they will act as a fully constituted court just as though they were sitting at the Old Bailey, although with winter temperatures on the steppes dropping to minus 25C, they will be aware of the differences.

When the jury was empanelled last Monday, the judge told them that their visit would be no holiday and that they must take their warmest clothing. He also told them that if they or their families had suffered as a result of Germany's actions against Jews or other races or religions, it would be better if they did not serve on the jury.



Sawoniu: accused of four murders in 1942

The case has been brought under the 1991 War Crimes Act, a rare piece of retrospective legislation. The visit to Belarus is at the request of the defence team, led by William Clegg, QC, and is unprecedented.

Only once has there been anything remotely similar. Seven years ago a Scottish Civil Court sat in Lithuania to hear evidence against a former Lithuanian police commander who had been accused in a television documentary of murdering Jews in occupied Eastern Europe.

Anton Gecas, then 83, a retired mining engineer from Edinburgh, was the first person to defend himself against war-crime allegations in a British court. The Crown abandoned plans for a criminal prosecution after Lord Rodger Earlsferry, the Lord Advocate, decided there was insufficient evidence on which to proceed, despite an exhaustive investigation which cost nearly £4 million.

Website offers advice on sex to youngsters

By Elizabeth Judge

A WEBSITE offering young people advice about contraception, sexually transmitted diseases and relationships has been opened by the Health Education Authority.

The LoveLife site, opened on Valentine's Day, is intended for 16-24 year olds. Gail Porter, the television presenter, and two "agony aunt" columnists answered questions from young people on-line yesterday afternoon.

The site aims to offer young people straightforward, no-nonsense advice. It addresses topics such as emergency contraception, abortion and deciding when to have sex for the first time. It gives the location of sexual heath clinics and links up with other related sites. There is a series of "true and false" questions designed to dispel common myths.

Rodney Amis, the Health Education Authority's project manager, said: "LoveLife is designed to be fast, simple and accessible. We'd like young people to be able to dip in and out quickly if they want to, so it's not bogged down with complex graphics that take ages to download."

The Family Planning Association said the site was a good way of getting information across to young men. "Lots of information about sex is targeted at girls and not enough at boys. The Internet is used by both sexes and it seems to be a medium that young people trust," a spokesman said.

"Britain has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Europe and it is essential that children have access to information. It is a fantastic idea."

The website address is www.lovelife.hea.org.uk

Queen's horses sedated before royal parades

By Michael Horsnell

SOME of the Queen's younger, friskier horses receive mild sedatives before royal parades to calm them, Buckingham Palace admitted yesterday.

Amid criticism by animal welfare groups, the palace disclosed that the horses' feed is laced if they appear nervous before their introduction to ceremonial parades like the state opening of Parliament and Trooping the Colour.

Buckingham Palace said that the horses, used to draw carriages carrying members of the Royal Family, were only given sedatives if they were unusually skittish.

The Queen, who was startled when a trooper from the Household Cavalry taking part in the royal procession to honour the visit of President Herzog of Germany last December was thrown from his restless horse, Reaveley, is aware of the practice.

But allegations by a former livery groom of widespread doping at the Royal Mews before major set-pieces were firmly denied.

Tim Cunniffe, 27, a former Household Cavalry trooper who served as a groom at the Royal Mews stables for nearly a year, claimed that the drugs were nicknamed "paste" because they leave the horses "pasted or wiped out".

He said: "Wonderful, lively horses were being turned into zombies. One minute they were frisky and bright-eyed and excited at performing their duties — the next their heads would fall, their eyes glaze over and they would be sweating as if they had just run in the Grand National."



Lance-Corporal Salmon and the frisky Reaveley

Animal welfare groups have called for an inquiry by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons after an investigation by the *Sunday People*.

Jonathan Owen, a spokesman for the World Society for the Protection of Animals, said: "I am astounded. You shouldn't use these horses if you can't train them properly. Horses can be trained humanely. Saying the animals are young and frisky is no excuse."

Reaveley, an 11-year-old gelding, fell on top of his rider, Lance-Corporal Paul Salmon, in Windsor. It is understood the horse had not been sedated before the ceremony.

University student killed by meningitis

By Nick Nuttall

STUDENTS at Oxford Brookes University have been issued antibiotics, medical advice and a helpline number after a 19-year-old died from meningitis at the weekend.

Adam Fryer, a first-year engineering student, was rushed to hospital on Saturday afternoon after dialling 999 but died hours later.

Professor Graham Upton, the university's vice-chancellor, said: "Our thoughts are with the family and friends of this student and our deepest sympathy goes to them."

Letters have been sent to all 550 students at Morrell Hall, outlining all the symptoms of the disease and giving details of an emergency helpline number. Brookes University said yesterday that officials from the Oxfordshire Health Authority were treating the death as an isolated case.

Celebrity chefs take cookery to the classroom

By Jill Sherman, chief political correspondent

SCHOOLCHILDREN will be taught to make "baked bean volcano" by celebrity chefs this week as part of a government plan to show the children that there is more fun to cooking than processed microwaved food. The children will learn "coping skills" and to help parents at home to prepare a healthy balanced meal.

Anthony Worrall Thompson, Roz Denny, and other television chefs will be taking their skills into 36 schools during the half-term holiday to teach children how to prepare celery, prawn and apple salad, and fruit pavlova for healthy suppers at home. Other recipes include "dracula beetroot with sultana savoury muffins, pineapple salsa, vegetable tortilla with guacamole gunge and keema lamb stuffed naan bread".

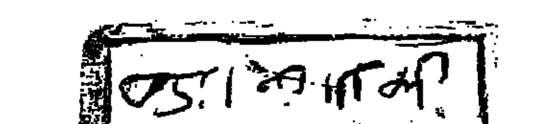
The "Cooking for Kids" initiative, which is to be launched today by Prue Leith and Tessa Jowell, the health minister, is a pilot scheme which will be extended to 100 schools at Easter and during the summer holidays.

Children will also get the opportunity to prepare food on board the touring Royal Society of Arts Focus on Food Cooking Bus which has been fitted with a fully equipped kitchen. The bus will tour London, Manchester and Birmingham.

Up to 3,000 children will be taking part in the £100,000 voluntary scheme, with some primary school children attending secondary school classes and teachers helping out.

Waitrose, the supermarket chain, has offered to supply all the ingredients free and the chefs have all agreed to work for a minimum fee.





Parliament to fight its corner in 'sleaze' libel case

A rare clash with the courts is in prospect, writes Frances Gibb


Hamilton: denies that any conflict arises

THE Attorney-General has ordered that Parliament should be represented in the Court of Appeal when Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, attempts to end the libel proceedings against him by Neil Hamilton, the former Conservative MP for Tatton.

The highly unusual move has been made because the case raises an unprecedented conflict between Parliament and the courts. Ross Cranston, the Solicitor-General, will appear for Parliament.

Mr Hamilton sued after Mr Al Fayed alleged on Channel 4's *A Question of Sleaze* in 1997 that Mr Hamilton had accepted free shopping, gift vouchers, cash and a holiday at the Paris Ritz from him. Mr Al Fayed took the case to the appeal court because the High Court last year rejected his argument that a verdict on the issues had already been given by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, and that it was not open to the courts to question the judgment of Parliament.

Sir Gordon's report that the "cash for questions" affair involved a breach of the rules of the House of Commons was endorsed by Parliament in 1997. Mr Al Fayed argues that for the courts to question it would be a breach of Article 9 of the 1689 Bill of Rights, which provides: "The freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament." In effect, Mr Al Fayed's lawyers argue. Mr Hamilton is seeking to impugn Parliament's supremacy.

Mr Hamilton, who denies impropriety, argues that the Downey inquiry did not reach a definitive conclusion about his involvement; nor was it in any sense a judicial forum, applying the rules of due process that would be applied in a court. He had no right to cross-examine witnesses and no control over who was called as a witness, and was not allowed to be represented by counsel. There was no discovery process or process for the disclosure of documents.

Mr Hamilton said that he had no option but to pursue his libel action if he was to clear his name. "Mr Fayed is throwing any amount of money at this case . . . his tactic is to try to bleed us white." But it was essential, he said, that the allegations were aired in a court of law with its "completely different rules".

Sir Gordon had accepted evidence which a court would have rejected, he said. "We are not trying to second-guess Parliament. That is not true. Even if the court came to a different conclusion, that would not impugn a decision of Parliament because the standards committee did not come to a conclusion and if it did, it is a quite different kind of tribunal."

Lord Harris of High Cross, a founder president of the Institute of Economic Affairs, the free-market think-tank, is running a fighting fund to pay Mr Hamilton's legal bills, which could run to £500,000.

Angry Carey insists he is fit for the job

Archbishop gives first indication that he will stay on after retirement age, reports Richard Owen

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday angrily dismissed a report that he was "emotionally and physically exhausted", and surprised even his own staff by suggesting that he may continue in office beyond retirement age.

Speaking after meeting the Pope, Dr George Carey said he was "fed up with this kind of mischievous rumour-mongering". The Right Rev Graham James, formerly on the archbishop's staff and now Bishop of St Germans in Cornwall, was quoted in *The Sunday Times* as saying that Dr Carey, 63, lacked the "enormous amount of stamina" needed for the job at a time of falling church numbers, defections to Rome and Anglican in-fighting.

The archbishop described the report as absolute tosh, and said: "I am very vigorous and in very good form. People who talk like this should watch out: I am thinking of carrying on until 2005. There is a lot of life left in me yet."

Aides said that the archbishop, who preached at All Saints Anglican church near the Spanish Steps yesterday on "the difference between fact and interpretation", had previously refrained from telling even his closest officials whether he intended to continue past 65. "He has kept up a tremendous dawn-to-midnight pace during his three-day visit to Rome," Canon Richard Marsh, his secretary for ecumenical affairs, said. "He is in fighting form."

Dr Carey, who last met the Pope in December 1996, was in Rome to dedicate a new £200,000 headquarters for the 30-year-old Anglican Centre, housed in the imposing Renaissance Doria Pamphilj palace, which also contains Italy's foremost private art gallery.

On Saturday hundreds of people lined the cobbled streets of the Trastevere quarter of Rome to cheer Dr Carey as he visited the Community of Sant' Egidio, a Catholic centre for missions to the poor and the Third World. He also took part in a service at the nearby church of Santa Maria. "The Anglican Pope prays in Rome" reported *Corriere della Sera*.

Senior diplomats accredited to the Holy See said the crowds were unprecedented. "There was nothing like this for any of his predecessors when they came to Rome, from Michael Ramsey to Robert Runcie," one said.

At his meeting with John Paul II, Dr Carey called for Christian unity in the run-up to the new millennium. The pontiff and the archbishop agreed to revive dialogue between the two churches, which has been hindered by disputes over the ordination of women and papal authority, by convening a conference in Canada in May next year.

Lambeth Palace said that the meeting would involve Anglican primates, including Dr Carey, and the heads of Catholic Bishops Conferences "from areas where there are significant numbers of Anglicans and Roman Catholics", including America and Africa. It will tackle subjects such as mixed marriages.

The Pope, 78, described as "sharp and lively", also agreed to work with Dr Carey to ease the persecution of Christians in Sudan and India and to relieve Third World debt.


The archbishop and the pontiff agreed to hold a conference to improve Church links

Church to face Lords over right to property

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A PLANNING battle over a patch of boggy land in a tiny Oxfordshire village may result in landowners across Britain denying the public access to their property, the Church of England has said.

The Oxford diocese's battle centres on the medieval principle of glebe land, property donated to the Church to help to pay for its clergy. It has received planning permission to build two luxury homes on a small plot of glebe land next to the parish church by the River Stert but the parish council at Sunningwell, near Abingdon in Oxfordshire, backed by the Countryside Commission, is claiming the plot has been common land for so long that it should be designated a village green.

The council has won the right to have its case heard at the House of Lords in April. If successful, it will stop the houses being built because development on a registered village green is illegal.

The Rev Richard Thomas said that the existence of a registered footpath across the patch of land had given rise to the impression that it was common land. "An adverse decision in this case would have major implications . . . for other landowners all round the country. Just as the Church might have to take steps to protect its historic assets, the same would apply to very many sites," he said.

Professor hopes for access to 'tomb of Christ'

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AN OXFORD don could become the first person permitted to measure and record a burial site believed by some to be the tomb of Christ.

Martin Biddle, professor of medieval archaeology at Hertford College, has established that a tomb found in the fourth century under a Roman temple in Jerusalem could be where Jesus was placed on the evening of the crucifixion in about AD 33.

Granted exclusive night-time access to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City of Jerusalem, Professor Biddle and his Danish wife, Birthe, have untangled the complex history of the site and its tomb throughout the ages. Now he hopes that a badly needed restoration of the 19th-century structure around the tomb will be allowed to go ahead by the three separate churches that control the site.

That would allow access to the rock-cut tomb believed to lie behind it. It would establish for the first time whether, as is believed by scholars, the tomb genuinely dates from the first century. Such an investigation could unearth clues to the origins of the tomb itself.

Professor Biddle gives an account of the tomb's history in *The Tomb of Christ* (Sutton Publishing), to be published next month. He said: "The structure above the tomb is in a fairly bad condition. A restoration would have to be fairly thorough, so there would be quite a lot to see. But we have no idea yet whether the restoration is going to go ahead."

The tomb is cared for by the Greek Orthodox, the Armenian and the Latin churches. Professor Biddle said: "Our overwhelming reaction is a sense of privilege at being allowed to investigate a place of such extraordinary sanctity, looked after by people whose entire lives are based on an acceptance of that sanctity."

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Clockwise from top left: Sophie Dahl, Katie Pukrik, Cate Blanchett, Dani Behr, Gillian Anderson, Kathy Lette, Kate Winslet, Thandie Newton, Natascha McElhone, Soraya Mire and Melanie Griffith

Stars share lines in homage to female anatomy

GILLIAN ANDERSON, Cate Blanchett and Kate Winslet, stars of *The X-Files*, *Elizabeth* and *Titanic* respectively, were among the celebrities at the Old Vic in London last night for a Valentine's Day production of *The Vagina Monologues*, once described as "an 80-minute open letter to the female anatomy" (Dalya Alberge writes).

The production was a success in America and has been a box-office hit since it opened on January 26 at the King's Head in North London, where it continues until March 7. Last night's performance was in aid of six charities, including the Rape Crisis Line, and tickets cost between £100 and £500.

The performance of the play, written by Eve Ensler, an American, caused excitement because a number of men — including Damien Hirst — were allowed to tread the Old Vic's boards for the occasion, joining 14 women to read the lines.



Ensler: asked what vaginas would say if they could talk

Ensler based her play, about the sexual identity of women, on discussions with 200 women of all ages and races about what their vaginas would say if they could speak.

One critic said "this short, clinical catalogue of how Ensler's interviewees feel about their own genitalia gives navel-gazing a whole new meaning — and is surprisingly fresh, funny and beguiling".

The piece is usually performed by Ensler on her own, but celebrities from stage, screen and literature joined her last night to share the lines of the monologues.

Top male athletes develop anorexia

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

SOME leading male international runners are starving themselves and risking impotence in the pursuit of excellence, to the alarm of the authorities that run British sport.

The eating disorders anorexia and bulimia were known to have reached startling levels among elite British women runners but new evidence now indicates that they are also becoming common among men, who can suffer impotence when their hormone levels drop as a result.

A study of 200 leading women athletes, conducted by Leeds University in 1997, showed that at least 8 per cent had undergone treatment for eating disorders, a figure eight times greater than the average for that age group. It is now clear that more male athletes are seeking to lose weight in the belief that it will help them to run faster.

"The incidence of eating disorders, in both male and female athletes, is known to be on the increase," UK Athletics, the sport's governing body in Britain, said in a news release last week. Alma Thomas, a performance consultant for UK Athletics, has counselled several members of the Great Britain team who have eating disorders.

"Alma says there are three or four top British men who have an eating disorder," said Peta Bee, the prime author of an advice leaflet to be distributed this month among athletes and coaches. "Men are not always aware of the warning signs. They can be quite embarrassing, like they cannot get an erection because their body fat is too low and their hormones drop. They go to Alma and say 'I am having a problem with my relationship' and she tracks it back to an eating disorder."

Qualified coaches usually lack the knowledge to recognise or deal with eating disorders. The Eating Disorders Association has been asked to help to train coaches as counsellors.

"We have heard some disturbing stories," Bee said. "One coach has weigh-ins for his athletes, all of whom are at international level, at the start of every training session. The person who has put on the most weight has to wear a pig mask to run in. It is putting the focus on weight rather than speed."

David Moorcroft, the former 5,000 metres world record holder and now chief executive of UK Athletics, said that fast-improving standards in middle and long-distance runners put greater pressures on British athletes. "As the challenge of becoming the best in the world gets harder, there is an increasing danger, certainly in endurance events, that people will push closer towards the line of anorexia," he said.

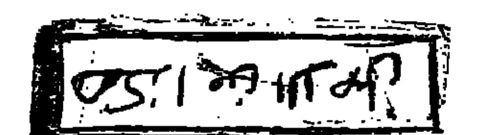
The issue has prompted the British Olympic Association (BOA) to join with UK Athletics and the Eating Disorders Association in staging an awareness conference on February 24. "It is something we are concerned about and the nutrition advisory group at the BOA has been looking across all the Olympic sports because we are concerned it is a real issue," Nick Fellows, general manager of the British Olympic Medical Centre, said.

Genetics fail to allay women's cancer fears

MANY women still worry about breast cancer in spite of being reassured by genetic experts that they are not at high risk of getting the disease (Elizabeth Judge writes).

A Cancer Research Campaign survey questioned 282 women with a family history of cancer who had had counselling designed to reassure them about the risk. But after the consultation a third of the women still thought that they had a high rather than moderate risk of developing cancer.

Dr Maggie Watson, of the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, which has set up a genetic counselling service, said: "We need to work on getting the message about their real risk across to them and to allay any fears they may have."





PHIL HOUGHTON

Rubbish on Shakespeare Beach at Dover. Litter along England's southwest coast doubled over the past year but Scotland has Britain's dirtiest beaches

Tourists blamed for big increase in beach litter

Pollution levels along Britain's coastline up by 24 per cent in one year, reports Nick Nuttall

TOURISTS, fishermen, shipping and flytippers are to blame for a worrying increase in beach pollution around Britain, the 1998 Beachwatch survey has found

The level of litter and other waste on beaches has increased by 24 per cent since 1997 and has nearly doubled since 1994, the report's authors say. Tourist rubbish, such as crisp packets, drink cans and cigarette stubs, was up by more than 20 per cent over the 1997 survey and topped the litter league in all regions, amounting to 36.7 per cent of the total.

The highest levels of rubbish were found in Scotland, which had 2,714 items per kilometre. The cleanest beaches were on the Channel Islands, where 1,242 items per kilometre were picked up.

Some beaches have deteriorated sharply. Volunteers discovered that the beach between the Don estuary and the Ythan estuary in Aberdeenshire had 4.6 items of rubbish per metre compared with 0.5 items in 1994. Sandhaven beach in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, had 0.4 items of rubbish per metre in 1994, but 4.4 last year.

Another problem beach is Spa Pavilion, at Felixstowe, Suffolk, which now has almost three times as much litter as before.

The survey's backers, the Marine Conservation Society and *Reader's Digest*, are calling on councils, water companies, port authorities, the fishing and shipping industries and the Government to step up action against litter.

Samantha Pollard, of the Marine Conservation Society, said: "A plague of plastic litter is constantly spreading along our beaches and throughout the world's oceans, harming dolphins, seals, turtles and sharks, which become entangled in nets or fishing line and eat plastic pieces mistaken for prey. Plastic has consistently amounted to over 50 per cent of debris recorded for all our surveys."

Susannah Hickling, environment editor of *Reader's Digest*, said: "It is quite simply not acceptable that a third of the rubbish found was dropped by visitors to our beaches. It is an easy problem to solve and if we don't dispose of our rubbish more carefully, we will be guilty of ruining our beaches for future generations and damaging our own tourist economy."

The survey, during which 3,344 volunteers cleaned 167km of 257 beaches in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands, was carried out last September.

Levels of litter in Northern Ireland were found to have increased threefold since 1997. In England, the South West recorded the highest levels, with litter doubling since 1997. The North West and the Isle of Man was the second dirtiest region in England, recording the highest level of sewage-related debris. Litter levels in Wales were down by 20 per cent.

Graham Setterfield, the water services director for the industry group Water UK, said that the report provided evidence that progress was being made on reducing the levels of sewage on beaches.

"This report clearly shows tourist debris is by far the principal cause of beach pollution. No one is doing more than we are to improve water quality around our coasts and no-one will be happier than the water industry when the problem of sewage-related debris is solved once and for all."

☐ Oil residue is still polluting the Welsh coastline three years after the *Sea Empress* tanker spill near Milford Haven, environmentalists have found. In research for Friends of the Earth, 16 sites were identified where deposits of oil were found just below the surface.

HIGH LITTER MARK

Beaches in the Beachwatch survey with the highest level of rubbish and waste per metre of coastline

1: Ballyhoman, Co Down, with 69.4 items
2: Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, with 54.6
3: Spaldrick, Isle of Man, with 50.1
4: Coxside, Devon, with 42.2
5: Fleshwick, Isle of Man, with 41.8
6: Chapel Porth, Cornwall, with 29.9
7: Leysdown-on-Sea, Kent, with 27.2
8: Little Falmouth Beach, Cornwall, with 27.1
9: Croyde-Down End, Devon, with 20.3
10: Chesil Cove, Dorset, with 17.7

NEWS IN BRIEF

ID required for chat show guests

The BBC has introduced new security measures to stop fake guests appearing on chat shows after reports that *The Vanessa Show* had featured models and actresses. All guests must now provide identification and sign a declaration that reads: "My contribution will be entirely honest and truthful. I am aware that the BBC may take legal action against me if I mislead the BBC or if my contribution misrepresents the facts."

Police accident

An 83-year-old man has been hit and killed by a police car in Leeds. Police said that the marked car was following a suspect in another vehicle when the accident happened about 9pm on Saturday in the Halton Moor area.

Love from grief

Jonathan Thompson, 33, whose wife Vikki was murdered walking her dog in the Cotswolds in 1995, has married her best friend in Hook Norton, Oxfordshire. Lyn Trowbridge, 42, comforted him after the unsolved killing.

Balloonists ready

The British balloonists Andy Elson, 45, and Colin Prescott, 48, hope to lift off this week from Almeria, Spain, to fly around the world, sponsored by Cable and Wireless. The rival *Breitling Orbiter 3* is awaiting lift-off in the Swiss Alps.

Get back, Casbah

Liverpool's Casbah Coffee Club, where John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison made their first appearance together, is to be reopened to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the gig. The club closed in 1962.

Lives in danger for lack of grit

By Michael Horsnell

LIVES are being endangered because local authorities cannot afford to grit country roads, it was claimed yesterday on the BBC1 programme *CountryFile*, which found that some councils have reduced their gritting budgets by hundreds of thousands of pounds.

As heavy frost affected many roads yesterday, it emerged that only major roads are gritted. Local authorities say that to cover minor roads, they would need four times their gritting budget.

Paul Watters of the Automobile Association said: "About 700 people a year are killed or seriously injured on ice or snow-laden roads.

"A fatality costs society a lot of money and the costs and benefits of salting are, clearly, that it pays to save lives."

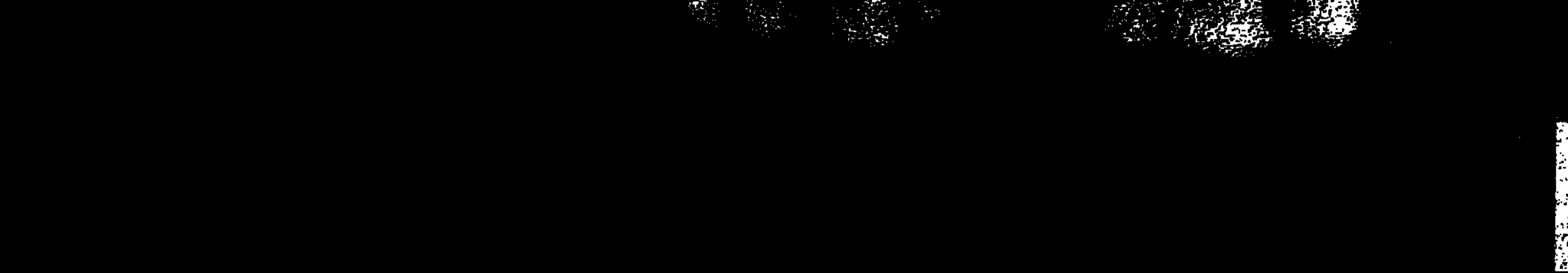
But Chris Walker, of East Sussex County Council's highways maintenance department, whose gritting budget has been cut by £200,000, said that it could not afford to do more salting. "If we were to salt all the roads, we'd need an extra £4 million," he said.

A spokesman for the Highways Agency, which is responsible only for motorways and trunk roads, said later: "We put a priority on winter maintenance for safety reasons. Maintenance and safety are two of the factors which the Government has made priorities so, if anything, spending will be going up."

More than a million tons of salt are used on roads every year at a cost of £140 million but no more than 40 per cent of minor roads get a winter treatment.

Insurance companies say that a quarter of new claims arise when drivers skid on roads which they did not realise had not been gritted.


top



Heritage usurps 'Cool Britannia'

The future of British tourism lies in the past, writes **Mark Henderson**

THE British Tourist Authority is to promote visits to Britain in 2000 with a brochure that celebrates two millennia of history rather than "Cool Britannia".

Stung by criticism of its decision to drop the Union Flag from its logo and recent campaigns focusing on youth culture, the authority has placed Britain's heritage at the heart of its £3 million push to attract two million extra tourists in 2000.

The stars of the glossy 2000 Years Around Britain brochure, which will be launched in New York later this month, are images of Olde England rather than the Young Country — Blenheim Palace, St Paul's Cathedral and HMS Victory.

Its pages are peppered with quotations from famous Britons such as Robert Louis Stevenson and Rudyard Kipling, and a time line picks out key dates and events in the country's history — the invasion of Claudius in AD 43, Bannockburn (1314), the building of the Iron Bridge (1779) and the Battle of Trafalgar (1805).



Tradition topples trendiness in the new BTA brochure

New millennium projects such as the Dome and the Lowry arts centre in Manchester are included but many other symbols of modern Britain miss out — there is no place for the Angel of the North or Richard Rogers's Lloyd's Building in London.

Deirdre Livingstone, millennium marketing manager at the BTA, said the authority had made a conscious decision to exploit the depth of British history rather than rely on gimmicks.

"The millennium will make people think about their place in history, and there is no country with a better story of the last 2,000 years than Britain," she said. "Britain's history remains the prime reason why people come to this country, and we forget that at our peril."

Tourism chiefs are expecting a visitor boom as a result of the millennium, with an extra 2 million tourists likely to spend up to £2 billion more than they did last year.

The brochure, which will have an initial print run of 100,000 and is aimed mainly at the motoring market, suggests 15 itineraries that will give visitors a full taste of what Britain's past has to offer.

The 14-day grand tour takes in King Alfred's Round Table in Winchester, Salisbury Cathedral, the Cerne Abbas giant, Bath, Tintern Abbey and Hay-on-Wye, the Welsh Marches and the Potteries, Roman Chester, Liverpool and Carlisle. It then ventures into Scotland, taking in Dumfries and Edinburgh before returning south to Oxford via the Yorkshire Dales and Lincoln.

Other routes celebrate the Highlands and Islands; the Lowlands and the Borders; Northumbria (with an emphasis on its castles and Hadrian's Wall): and London.

Wales gets two routes, and Northern Ireland is included in a BTA brochure for the first time, though its suggested tour makes no mention of the Troubles.

Almost all the routes include elements that are carefully pitched at the crucial American market. Visitors to Northern Ireland are told about the Ulster-American Folk Park at the ancestral Mellon family home in Camphill, Liverpool is presented as the embarkation point for millions of emigrants to the New World and Stirling as the site of the key battle in the Hollywood film *Braveheart*.

Exiled families urged to dig into their roots

By Mark Henderson

DESCENDANTS of emigrants and transported convicts will be targeted by a new campaign to encourage foreigners with British ancestry to "come home for the millennium" and trace their roots.

Tourism chiefs hope to attract thousands of extra visitors from former colonies in a promotion that will present 2000 as a fitting time to take stock of origins. The campaign will focus on the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

In April the British Tourist Authority is to publish a new edition of its pamphlet *Tracing Your Ancestors* and regional tourist boards will run their own promotions. Wales plans a "homecoming" drive around the Rugby World Cup this autumn and Scotland is highlighting Hogmanay celebrations in Edinburgh and Glasgow. The BTA is expecting at least 2.25 million more visitors next year, bringing in an extra £1 billion in revenue, because of attractions such as the Millennium Dome. The family tree factor could swell numbers.

John Howard: proud of his convict roots

Interest in amateur genealogy is particularly marked in Australia, where a convict descent has recently acquired considerable social cachet. Even the Prime Minister, John Howard, boasts proudly of his criminal ancestry.

The BTA campaign will tie in with plans for millennium celebrations at the Public Record Office and several family history projects have won millennium grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Bill Lawson, who runs Co Leis Thu? (Who do you belong to?), a Gaelic archive in Northton on the Isle of Harris, said: "People are always attracted to tracing their roots at anniversaries and centennials."

He has records of more than 27,500 Hebridean family trees. The archive, which Mr Lawson runs with his wife, has been awarded a £250,000 lottery grant for a centre that will open in April next year. If visitors take enough information on their families, it is be possible to make links with relatives still living locally.



Ring of confidence: the charity hopes that all ancient trees will receive the same care and affection as the Meavy Oak

Oldest trees win new friends

By Simon de Bruxelles

THE mighty oak on the village green at Meavy, Dartmoor, is one of a small group of living things that saw in the last millennium. On New Year's Eve villagers will pour out of the Royal Oak pub, named after the tree, join hands around the trunk and serenade it with a chorus of Auld Lang Syne.

The Meavy Oak is one of fewer than 1,000 ancient trees that dot the British landscape. Some are well known, such as the Fortingall Yew in Perthshire which at about 3,500 years old is believed to be the oldest living thing in the British Isles. Other ancient trees have passed their lives in anonymity on private estates, out of the reach of developers and timber-hungry industries.



Villagers picnicking beneath the Meavy Oak in 1891

Now 200 tree specialists and enthusiasts have formed a charity to give advice on the management and conservation of aged trees. The Ancient Tree Forum is helping to compile a register of every tree in Britain more than 400 years old and intends to lobby government for help with their preservation. The director of the forum is Ted Green, a retired plant scientist who advises on conservation at Windsor Great Park.

He said: "We want to raise the awareness of people at large that ancient trees are part of their heritage. Britain has the finest ancient treescape in Europe but it has suffered from the agricultural industries, disease, developers, pollution and storms."

Britain has 80 per cent of the ancient trees left in Europe, in spite of being only twelfth in a 13-strong league of remaining semi-natural woodland. The few remnants include Burnham Beeches near Slough, Berkshire, which has trees several hundred years old, the New Forest, where a wide variety of species are scattered over a vast area, and Windsor Great Park, which has an important collection of oaks up to 1,000 years old.

"These trees are reservoirs of great biological importance. Here we have living links with the past 1,000 years and we ought to be delving into them to discover what they have to tell us about longevity and resistance to disease," Mr Green said.

He said ignorance was more of a problem than lack of funding. Few trees are as fortunate as the Meavy Oak, whose boughs have been cared for since 1930 thanks to money raised by villagers. Until recently it was widely believed that an old tree was dying when its trunk became hollow and its upper branches died back. It is now known that a hollow trunk is a natural and beneficial state for a healthy old tree.

"In the 1987 hurricane the old trees that were blown down were the ones with solid trunks. The hollow trees were able to bend and flex," Mr Green said. "A hollow tree is a refuge for all kinds of creatures."

Most of the ancient trees once had to work for their living. The hornbeams that ringed London and still survive in places such as Epping Forest were pollarded to fuel thousands of ovens. Others were used for ship and house-building. Today many are neglected and in need of management to stop them toppling or splitting.

Carnival masks a serious political agenda

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

A judge recently ruled — to the approval of Rhinelanders — that a husband could not sue his wife for divorce merely because she has been made pregnant by a random lover during carnival.

These are the "mad days", the *Tolle Tage*, in Catholic Germany, and while Cologne is not exactly Rio it does seem to hum with sexual energy. The partying began weeks ago but took off last Thursday — on Women's Feast Night — and comes to a climax today, Rose Monday, when in Cologne alone a million people are on the streets.

German Carnival has the same anti-clerical message as elsewhere in the world — a raucous, vulgar farewell to meat and the pleasures of the flesh before the 40-day Lent fast. But there has always been a political edge to German celebrations, and never more so than this year when Bonn holds its last carnival as a political capital.

Women's Feast Night began as a protest by the washerwomen of Beuel, whose job in the 19th century was to scrub the laundry of the grand hotels of Cologne and the burghers of Bonn. It was hard work, badly paid, and they missed out on the drunken carnival carousing of the menfolk. So they formed their own carnival committee, elected their own powerful carnival princess and, according to legend, stormed the town hall. This event is re-enacted every year.

More importantly, women are allowed to run riot on this day. In ministerial offices women cut off the ties of their bosses in a castration metaphor. In the evening they abandon their husbands and go on noisy pub crawls.

For the past five years in the Rhineland, I have taken the moral high ground and found pressing business in a Protestant, carnival-free part of Germany. This year, the last before the move to Prussia, I thought I would try to get to the bottom of it.

Is the carnival a truly anti-authoritarian, anti-establishment, anti-male domination jaunt? Is it merely a safety valve, a way of rationing German ribaldry to five days a year? Is it — a far more interesting question — a time of orgies, or is the sexual innuendo just bluster?

I disguised myself as a monk and joined the carnival session in Muffendorf. On the platform the jokes commuted between cracks about Monica, Les Dawson on misogyny ("my wife and I were perfectly happy for 20 years — then we met") and low-key political cabaret ("one good thing about having Rudolf Scharping as Defence Minister — we will never have a blitzkrieg"). Carnival soldiers marched on stage, flowers in the barrels of their fake muskets.



HERBERT SPIES / EPA

The carnival celebrations bring on the clowns in Düsseldorf yesterday. The revelry reaches its climax today

The carnival prince — a plump businessman who had paid tens of thousands of pounds for the privilege of being elected and wearing tights — greeted the revellers with more bad jokes. A transvestite dancing troupe managed a Cher number. Below the platform I sat with a local dentist and his wife (both clowns), an interior decorator (Arab sheikh) and his increasingly tipsy wife (she-devil), the president of the international au pair organisation (Gandhi) and his teacher wife (bad fairy) and other local dignitaries. The aristocratic family of the village, who once held vast estates in the Baltics, sat on a central but subtly separate table. The local MP (another clown) was remarkably restrained. The dancing became wilder, the jokes cornier, the flirtation more outrageous as the night wore on.

But both on and off the platform there was a strong undertone of bitterness about the Prussians, the theft of the capital from Bonn.

Almost everybody there was anchored to the Rhineland and felt tense about the coming year; there was something wrong, they felt, about Germany moving its centre of gravity eastwards. Carnival mocks authority but only in the manner of a court jester, a jester who is licensed to laugh for a week a year.

Cologne carnival historians say the carnival revellers of the Third Reich defied and made fun of the Nazis. But there is scant evidence of that. Carnival floats in 1935 made fun of deported Jews; there has always been a slight anti-Semitic undercurrent.

At my favourite carnival event — the Cologne Detectives' Ball — the police commissioner, Jürgen Roters, was given a mocking award, but at the same time he was built up by the enthusiastic collection of cops as a future Mayor of Cologne.

Everyone wears a mask at carnival, nobody and nothing is quite what it seems. The apolitical or anti-political pose actually camouflages serious political activity. That is the unspectacular conclusion of my Rhineland investigation. As for the orgies, I made my excuses and left.

Rio's revellers dance away the currency blues

The samba-mad Brazilian street party is joined by Gabriella Gamini

BRAZILIANS yesterday cast aside economic woes, brushed off worries about runaway inflation and revelled to the seductive rhythms of samba at one of the world's most opulent and flamboyant carnivals.

Seemingly forgetting its currency gloom, or turning a blind eye to it, Rio de Janeiro is putting on one of its most expensive parades in decades. Millions have, in the past two days, also spilt out in skimpy beachwear to attend the street parties and the debauched masked balls.

Brazil is in the middle of its worst economic crisis in years, having suffered a 35 per cent devaluation of the real currency. Its Government is struggling to reduce a soaringly high budget deficit to lure back jittery investors who have fled with their capital.

But no financial turmoil seems reason enough for *Cariocas*, as Rio's inhabitants are called, or the Brazilian and foreign tourists who have flooded the coastal city, to tone down the glittery and lavish carnival.

Unlike in Russia, where economic crisis led to general gloom and doom, and in the Far East, where stock price falls triggered waves of suicides, Brazilians have maintained their week of revelling religiously. Partygoers seem keen to do their utmost to forget looming recession and the ghost of inflation by delving passionately into four days of dancing, drinking and sex.

"There may be a crisis on, but most people will have tried to scrimp and save to buy costumes and will let it all out over samba," said Jose dos Santos, a samba song composer of the Imperio Serrano samba school, which has its base in one of Rio's poorest slums. "This is a time when all inhibitions and worries are let go. We forget and just enjoy dancing and kissing non-stop."

There was no sign of austerity in the shows which began yesterday and will in the coming two days parade through a mile-and-a-half-long samba grandstand in the centre, known as Sambodromo.

Fourteen samba schools, all of which have 2,000 to 4,000 dancers and a 300-member percussion band, compete by putting on a show of music, lyrics, costumes and dancing. A jury decides on the best school at the end of the week when there is a final winners' parade and a cash prize.

The samba schools, mostly run by a gambling mafia, are said to have invested more than $16 million (£10 million) to embellish their floats and feathered costumed dancers, and to launch their parades with expensive fireworks.

Thousands of even the poorest Brazilians save for months to buy a costume from their favourite school, which allows them to take part in the event.

I took part in the parade by one of the lowlier, poorer schools, Estacio de Sa, whose theme was the history of the shoe. I got my chance to see what it was like to parade in the world's biggest carnival by paying $70 for a white T-shirt, tennis skirt and baseball cap pinned with numerous plastic tennis rackets.

Grateful for not having to dance in toe-crunching high heels and dressed up in a relatively humble outfit, I could not help gawping at the exuberance all around.

We started off with a 20-minute ear-bashing show of fireworks and spent 90 minutes dancing in tropical heat, led by percussionists crowned with feathers and fake gold-dusted turbans.

Despite a rise in price of imports, most schools have not forgone the use of cloud-making machines, confetti-throwing mechanisms, reams of neon lights and abundant real feathers. The Salgueiro samba school, one of the most popular, has included a lifesized aircraft as one of its floats.

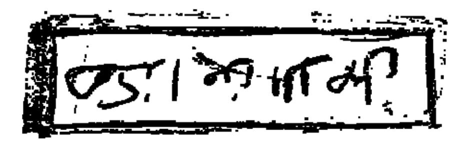
Mangueira, another popular samba school, will try to impress the judges with two miles of flashing neon lights to illuminate hip-thrusting and skimpily dressed dancers.

LINKS

http://www.carnaval.com - for carnival parties the world over
- For Rio carnival: http://ipanema.com http://123-rio.com/v_engl/rjge-a01.htm - has pictures
- For Germany's carnival season, go to worldwide carnival site: http://www.das-fotoarchiv.com/karneval/eindex.htm



Young dancers prepare for the weekend revels in the centre of Salvador, in Brazil's Bahia state



Russia's frozen outposts given $9m food aid

FROM ALICE LAGNADO IN MOSCOW

THE Red Cross will next month begin flying more than $9 million (£5.5 million) of emergency aid to the remotest parts of Russia's Arctic and Far East, where it says 80,000 people are facing starvation.

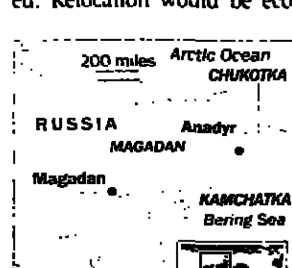
The aid organisation has launched an appeal in 175 countries to raise the money after finding severe shortages of food and medical supplies in the regions of Chukotka, Magadan and Kamchatka during a visit last month. The first consignments are expected to arrive within six weeks and include 90,000 22lb food parcels, warm clothing and medicine.

"Poverty in this region is appalling," said Borje Sjokvist, head of the Red Cross's Moscow delegation, at the appeal's Geneva launch last Monday. "Salaries and pensions have not been paid, shops have nothing to sell, hospitals have run out of medicine. Alcoholism and depression are taking their toll along with killer diseases such as tuberculosis."

The northern regions suffer unique problems in Russia. The eight million people there cannot feed themselves, for a start. In Soviet times, huge amounts of supplies — more than ample — were sent in the expensive "northern delivery", run on military lines.

People were attracted to the area because the Government offered good wages in an attempt to exploit diamonds, gold, tin, platinum and oil in the regions. The "northern delivery" was a sweetener. When the Soviet Union collapsed, these regions fell apart, too. Those who settled there to make money have become the nation's poorest people.

Unlike central Russians, they cannot rely on kitchen gardens for food and there are even fewer jobs to go round. Mines and factories are deserted. Relocation would be economically impossible. This winter, due to the countrywide economic crisis, the "northern delivery" has been late. There are reports of children and teachers fainting in school.



Though supplies are small compared to the handouts in Soviet times, they are still crippling Russia's economy. "You could take all the population of Koryak (a region larger than Britain with 30,000 residents), put them in five-star hotels in Moscow and give them three meals a day, and it'd be less expensive," Valeri Georg, deputy chief of the Government's committee responsible for the far north, told the *Moscow Times* in November.

☐ **Iraqi deal:** The British Embassy in Moscow has been ordered by the Foreign Office to investigate allegations that Russia has signed a secret deal with Baghdad to repair and update Iraq's air defences, severely damaged by American and British bombers (Michael Binyon writes).

The deal, which would be a serious breach of the United Nations arms embargo, was said to include an upgrade of Iraq's fighter aircraft, especially its MiG23s and MiG29s.

HAVAKUK LEVISON / REUTERS



Thousands of secular Jews attend a Jerusalem meeting yesterday to support rulings by the Supreme Court rolling back controls exeercised by ultra-Orthodox Jews. A rival prayer rally by the ultra-Orthodox against the judicial system was held on the same day, attracting huge crowds

Jewish rallies clash over court rulings

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

DEEP divisions in Israeli society were manifested on the streets yesterday as an estimated 200,000 ultra-Orthodox Jews held a prayer rally against the judicial system, claiming it is biased against the religiously observant.

As a sea of black hats and suits — the uniform of ultra-Orthodox men — filled Jerusalem's main road, at a park nearby tens of thousands of secular Jews held a "pro-democracy" counter-demonstration. The secular protesters called on the Government to back the courts and the rule of law in the face of what they see as the growing power of religious Jews to interfere in the affairs of private citizens.

As helicopters hovered above the city, thousands of police were deployed in the streets to keep the two sides apart, in a military-style operation.

While the protest of the religious Jews was full of mournful singing and prayers, the demonstration by secular Israelis was filled with happier sounding music and a carnival-like atmosphere. But the hatred and fear of one another in the rival camps was probably equal in strength.

"I feel that one of the institutions of the Government, which is the judicial body of the state, is putting us up against the wall," said Emanuel Librowicz, an ultra-Orthodox Jew, who came to join the protest by his group. He was reacting to a series of recent Supreme Court rulings rolling back the influence of the Orthodox Jewish religious establishment to control marriages, burials, conversions and behaviour on the Sabbath.

He feared that the secular and religious camps would divide the country into two hostile camps if the make-up of the courts is not altered.

Vatican defends loners' graffiti

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AUTHORITIES in Rome, Milan and other important Italian cities reacted with dismay yesterday to a Vatican suggestion that graffiti on urban walls could be justified as a *cri de coeur* by "isolated and lonely souls" lost in a "metropolitan wasteland".

Italian towns are engaged in multimillion-pound projects to clean their streets and buildings for the millennium celebrations, when Rome alone expects nearly 30 million pilgrims and visitors.

But *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, whose pronouncements are vetted by the papal authorities, said that graffiti were often the "cry of the soul against the indifference of society". It said vandalism and the defacing of monuments could never be condoned. But some graffiti artists were gifted and had left a "mysterious code on the walls of our cities". The newspaper added that there was a movement of anonymous artists and writers engaged in a form of "metropolitan expression".

Vatican officials said that *L'Osservatore Romano's* remarks were not not intended to give carte blanche to vandals. "We fully back clean-up campaigns," one said. "There is no excuse for damaging property". But graffiti artists should not be criminalised en masse.

The paper noted that graffiti were not a new phenomenon. In a nod to St Valentine's Day, it said that lovers had for centuries carved their initials on trees, often enclosed in a heart.

But *La Repubblica* said that the papal benediction was at odds with the graffiti war declared by Francesco Rutelli, Mayor of Rome, and his Milan counterpart, Gabriele Albertini. Signor Albertini recently offered a £200 reward to anyone who helped the police to catch vandals red-handed.

The mayors also expressed alarm over acts of vandalism in many poorly guarded art galleries.

British Kosovo mission gets hi-tech winter kit

Michael Evans reports on troop preparations for peacekeeping in Balkans

HE 8,000 British troops on lert for a peacekeeping mision in Kosovo, codenamed Operation Agricola, are being itted out with the most dvanced winter combat lothes and the most expensive ilitary boots available.

The boots alone, Matterorns, are made out of soft eather with a Gortex lining nd retail at £170. However, he Ministry of Defence has ought thousands of pairs, educing the overall cost by a ignificant amount.

The standard army combat oot is not lined with Gortex nd not completely waterproof. For the bitter weather condiions expected in Kosovo, ministers have agreed that the soldiers should have the best, and the Matterhorn boots fitted the bill.

For previous military operaions, soldiers have had to esort to buying their own xtra kit, including boots, to neet their personal needs.

The winter kit handed out to ll the soldiers for Kosovo will e based on the standard Combat 95" clothes, specially lesigned by an MoD textile reearch agency in Colchester to ater for all weathers.

It consists of a Kevlar helnet, body armour, cotton and crylic combat trousers, thernal underwear, cotton shirt and a camouflaged cotton ombat jacket with fleece ining. There is also an assortnent of T-shirts to add extra ayers when the soldiers need nore warmth, and a Gortex waterproof "top and bottom" outfit only issued a year ago.

However, the MoD has aproved a whole series of extra it for Operation Agricola that will be the envy of other Nato roops sent to Kosoro.

This will consist of a fleeceined hat with ear flaps made out of wool and man-made fibres, a face mask made from Nomex fire-resistant material, padded wool/acrylic socks, the Matterhorn boots, a hood for the combat jacket and Gortex gloves. The Challenger tank crews are also being issued with two forms of tank suits, one of which is on trial with The King's Royal Hussars prior to general issue. The latest tank suit is made of cotton and acrylic material.

The sleeping bag for Kosovo will also have special extras. The standard army cold weather version will have an additional liner inside and a waterproof Gortex "bivvy bag" wrapped around the outside for added protection.

Final preparations were under way yesterday for loading all the heavy equipment for Operation Agricola onto ferries at the German port of Emden later today.

The two ferries, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels, *Sea Centurion* and *Sea Crusader*, are due to sail from Emden for the Greek port of Salonika tonight and tomorrow morning. The *Sea Centurion* will leave first at about midnight tonight. The two ferries will carry 400 vehicles, including Challenger I tanks, AS90 self-propelled guns and Warrior armed infantry carriers. Two hundred logistics personnel will accompany the equipment.

A further 200 logistical support troops, including members 17 Port and Maritime Squadron, based at the Marchwood military port in Southampton, will fly out to Salonika to prepare for the arrival of the equipment.

The rest of the 8,000-strong British force will wait until the two ferries are docked at Salonika before flying out to Greece to join their tanks, artillery and armoured combat vehicles, probably on February 25.

The "fighting element" of the British force will be a 1,500-man armoured battle group based around The King's Royal Hussars, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Powe.

The rest of the battle group for Operation Agricola will be made of soldiers from the Irish Guards, the Royal Artillery and the Armoured Brigade tactical headquarters.

The overall commander of Nato's proposed Kosovo peace implementation force (Kfor) will be Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Jackson, a British commander with extensive experience of peacekeeping in Bosnia.





Boots and weaponry are tested in training for the Operation Agricola peacekeeping mission

Insane mirror war's madness



Unrelenting civil violence has condemned even the mentally ill to a time of agony, writes Anthony Loyd in Stimlje

HE perimeter fence surounding the lunatic asylum Stimlje should represent a lear division between sanity nd madness. It does not.

However, at least those on he outside have some choices ft to them. For all the trageies in Kosovo today, perhaps one is so cruel as the fate of e 350 patients in the provice's only institution for the sane, who are the forgotten etritus of a suffering land.

Their lot was meagre before e war. Such is their mental ndition that none *will* recov- or can hope to be released, cording to the asylum's rector, Vesna Stamenkovic.

The institution was one of e first to feel the pinch of nctions against Serbia. In 93 a cut in funding comned with a typhus epidemic lled 20 per cent of the tients. Since the start of the ost recent crisis foreign nations, on which the asym relied heavily, turned o a trickle, then stopped, as e gunfire outside ncreased.

"The patients are terribly aid," said Ms Stamenvic. "We are running short food, fuel, clothes, everyng. The staff try to keep the it down on the lower els of the buildings when e shooting starts — bullets ve blown out some of the per windows and hit the lls — but it is difficult to ntrol everyone."

A Serb tank outside fired as spoke, the blast rattling windows. Minutes later a battle began in a nearby wood as dozens of patients, many half-dressed, shambled around listlessly in the snow.

Most appeared not to notice the fighting, but a wild-eyed woman, barefoot and wearing only a torn nightdress, ran around imitating a machine-gun with a stick while a man rolled over in the ice in a parody of violent death.

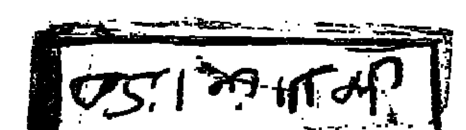
There are technically 102 staff, but only one non-resident psychiatrist who visits three times a week. Of the others, few are trained specialists. The oldest patient is a woman of 95 who has been there since it opened 50 years ago. The youngest is a four-year-old girl, Sanela. Her story is particularly poignant.

"The patients are allowed to sleep with one another if they wish," Ms Stamenkovic said. "But, by the nature of their illnesses, if they become pregnant, the pregnancy is terminated. But Sanela's mother hid her pregnancy from us until the last moment.

"When she was born, Sanela was not disturbed. But there was nowhere to send her, so she stays here in the children's wing. By the nature of the company there, she is now a borderline case."

The wards are cold and bare, and stink of urine and faeces and slow death.

Ms Stamenkovic said: "In spite of all our problems, we have kept above this nationalism poison. Inside here we are punished only by God. Outside it is worse, for there men punish one another."



Texas star still plays hard to get

Hillary: solid support in New York

Hillary weighs Senate battle

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

DECISION time is at hand for Hillary Clinton on whether she will run for the Senate from New York next year.

While flattered by the encouragement for her candidacy, she had deferred making up her mind until her husband's impeachment trial was over. With his acquittal last Friday, Mrs Clinton will be able to focus all her attention on consideration of the Senate idea, according to her spokeswoman, Marsha Berry.

White House insiders were quoted yesterday as saying that Mrs Clinton is drooling over the prospect, but others still doubted that she would take the plunge so soon after her year of living under the strain of the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

In recent weeks, the Hillary-for-Senator notion has grown far beyond media speculation into a groundswell that has energised New York Democrats in a way not seen since Bobby Kennedy won the seat more than 30 years ago.

Party soundings show Mrs Clinton has solid backing from women, trade unions, blacks, Hispanics and most voters in New York. Her support is so widespread that she will probably be spared having to compete in a primary.

Will Bush Jr run for President? It's either yes, no or maybe, he tells Michael Gove in Austin

THERE'S a touch of *Tara* about the Texas Governor's office. The sweep of the staircase outside, and the Dixie elegance of the furnishing within, only serve to emphasise that George W. Bush Jr is the Republicans' Rhett Butler — the man who operates behind enemy lines to secure famous victories, all the while living down a raffish past.

The Texas Governor's Southern chivalry was on display at the weekend when he played host to William Hague and his wife, Ffion, in the state capital, Austin, enrolling them both as honorary Texans and paying tribute to the Tory leader's "very bright vision".

It was a diplomatically well-judged performance for a man himself gearing up for a general election. The Republican Party establishment is anxious that George W. Bush should wrest back the White House from the Democrats who stole it from his Dad. And the polls show Mr Bush well ahead of his likely opponent, Vice-President Al Gore.

After his meeting with Mr Hague, Mr Bush talked to *The Times* about the pressures on him to run for the presidency. "I've got to decide soon," he explained, "and I'll have to say yes, no, or maybe." It was a formula he has hidden behind for months, but he couldn't hide his relish for the chase.

Before there was time to ask which option was most likely, he was already outlining his strategy. "If we say maybe at first, then we set up an exploratory committee. I've already had talks with people about a policy agenda. Thinkers like Myron Magnet and David Horowitz have come down, and I've also had Dick Cheney and George Shultz."

The last two are veterans of George Sr's time in the White House, and are especially anxious to see a Bush restoration. "Oh yeah, they all want me to run." But, like Rhett, George Jr is still playing a little hard to get.

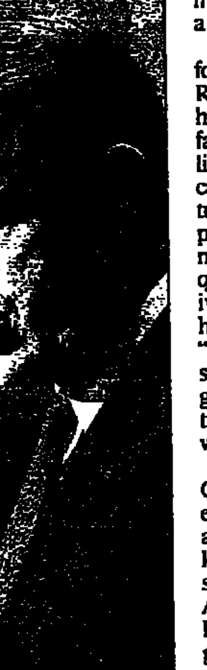
He makes a show of not wishing to forsake the Southern comfort of his Texas lifestyle. "It's a big sacrifice — it would be for you. If I do run, it has to be a decision of the head and the heart. In policy terms I know about education and taxes, but there are other issues such as foreign policy and defence I have to be happy with.

"I'm getting my head ready. But I also have two kids of college age — that's the time you spread your wings. If your father's in the White House, that's it — you've lost your privacy forever."

Mr Bush knows the price in lost privacy that the children of politicians have to pay. His own "party animal" past has been raked over by those anxious to fling mud. He married late, after a period of hell-raising which still sets the censorious muttering.

But George "Dubya" (W), as he is known now, projects a virtuous image. There are hints of past raffishness in his twinkly-eyed flirtatiousness with aides, and in his magnificent cowboy boots which have his name and the title "Governor" picked out in the leather.

But he is anxious to appear a reformed character. He forswore alcohol after waking up at the age of 40 with a particularly bad hangover, and supports the pro-chastity movement, True Love Waits, which enjoins abstinence on teenagers until they find their right partner.


Gore: lagging behind Bush in opinion polls

Mr Bush has become a Republican Party sweetheart by combining a traditional line on social issues and a conservative position on taxes with an inclusive approach to those usually left outside the Republican family.

Mr Bush's conversation reflects a concern about educational under-achievement among the less well-off in his state, especially the Hispanic population. Unlike Rhett, George W. wants you to know he *does* give a damn. He talks with verve of the "individual who makes a difference" and also "the little armies of compassion".

George W. is already expanding on this theme of "compassionate conservatism" in preparation for the 2000 election. "I believe the next century will be a prosperous one," he argues, gently reminding you of his own success in delivering a budget surplus, "but it must be prosperity without anybody left behind."

Privately, Bush makes the point that rightwingers have been too identified with creating wealth as an end in itself. There must be more stress on the values which govern how wealth is used; there must be, in his words, "prosperity with a purpose".

Bush is a wealthy man, the former owner of the Texas Rangers baseball team, and he has access through his father's network to the Republican establishment and its campaign dollars. He could turn that prosperity to a clear political purpose, but he does not want to set pulses racing quite yet, and is coolly dismissive of the polls which show him so far ahead of Mr Gore. "I don't take polls. The polls said George H. W. Bush was going to win 18 months before the 1992 election, and look what happened there."

As we prepared to part, the Governor inquired if I had enjoyed myself in Texas. I assured him I had, but let him know that I wished I could spend a night getting to know Austin better. "You should head down to Sixth Street," he grinned.

"Why, what's there?" I asked. "Bars," he explained with another hint of the party animal past, "lots of 'em."

"Should I mention your name?" I inquired.

"Well, if you do, and end up in jail, you ain't never gonna get out," he laughed.


Governor George W. Bush outside the Capitol in Austin, Texas, last month. "They all want me to run," he said

After our meeting, George W. was off for talks with the Governor of Louisiana. When asked just what these Southern politicos might be discussing in this pre-election season, Mr Bush would say only: "We're gonna talk crawfish *étouffée*. And I might shoot a little bird."

The insouciant, yet joshing pose was practised and easy, but also evidence of a politician who gives attention to every detail, including how amiably to close down a verbal joust. As we left the Governor's office I couldn't help noticing another detail — even the curtains seemed to refle[ct] his character. The compassio[n]ate conservative's drapes we[re] a rich deep blue, but attracti[ve]ly pink at the edges.

Leading article, page[...]


Bin Laden has moved out of his base in Afghanistan

Bin Laden absence 'a Taleban ruse'

THE disappearance from his lair in Afghanistan of Osama bin Laden, the Saudi suspected of planning terrorist attacks on British and American targets, may be a ruse by Taleban's administration to ease mounting pressure on it to hand him over to the US.

Weekend reports of bin Laden's mysterious departure from the Islamic militia's spiritual capital of Kandahar came as the American deadline for his expulsion neared and US warships sailed close to Pakistan's territorial waters.

The reports fuelled speculation of yet another US missile attack on bin Laden's camp, from where he allegedly guided terrorist actions against American installations.

Taleban leaders argue that there is no proof of bin Laden's involvement in terrorist activity. But last week they imposed restrictions on his movements and sealed the satellite phones that he uses to contact supporters. He was also prevented from talking to the media.

Informed sources have ruled out the possibility of the suspected terrorist leaving Afghanistan for Yemen, Iraq or Somalia, as had been widely reported.

'Sick strike' pilots must pay $10m

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

LEADERS of an airline pilots' union pleaded with members to halt their "crew flu" protest after a Texan judge imposed a fine that could run to millions of dollars.

With thousands of pilots calling in sick, American Airlines has been forced to cancel hundreds of flights every day and has stranded close to half a million passengers. Federal Judge Joe Kendall devised his own cure for the absent pilots — a contempt fine of $10 million (£6 million) that could go as high as $90 million to cover the airline's estimated losses.

Judge Kendall, a former Dallas police officer who has a large portrait of himself hanging in his court, vented his anger on the Allied Pilots Association for ignoring his order to end the week-long "sickout". He ruled that the pilots' actions were illegal and unless they ended quickly, he said: "All the assets of the union, including their strike war chest, will be capable of bei[ng] safely stored in the overhe[ad] bin of a Piper Cub" — a ti[ny] single-engine aircraft.

Unfortunately, he conti[n]ued, the radical element in t[he] union was acting like N[ew] York Mafia families. Th[ey] seemed determined to [...] American Airlines "into t[he] side of the mountain", taki[ng] themselves, the compa[ny,] their co-workers and their c[us]tomers with them.

The $10 million, about [a] quarter of the un[ion]'s [...] worth, must be paid into co[urt] by noon tomorrow as a do[wn] payment on a fine. Judge K[en]dall scheduled a hearing [on] Wednesday to decide if the p[en]alty and related dama[ges] should be increased.

Faced with this judi[cial] wrath, union leaders put [...] an appeal on their memb[ers'] website: "We need to get [the] airline up and running a[t full] capacity and we need to d[o it] quickly."

Beastly behaviour

Before she became an RSPCA officer Jo Needs thought that Britain was a nation of animal lovers. How wrong she was. Interview by **Anjana Ahuja**

There is a biting chill in the Cheltenham air but Jo Needs, an RSPCA inspector, leaves the top buttons of her coat open. She does not wear a scarf or poloneck. Somebody tried to strangle her once and now she cannot bear to have anything around her neck.

"I had just qualified and was working on probation in Swansea," she says. "Someone had reported a pony tied up in a field. It was tethered so tightly that its head was an inch from the ground. There was no water, no grass and broken glass scattered nearby.

"I was running back to my van to call a vet when I suddenly saw a man leading the pony away. I shouted at him to stop but he didn't. I followed him. I should have realised that something was wrong but all I could think of was the horse."

The man led her to fields behind an empty school, where he threatened her with a metal spike and tried to strangle her. Fortunately, some people had seen Needs following the man and managed to intervene. He was jailed for nine months.

Typically, Needs, a vivacious and attractive 28-year-old, saw the positive side: "Before that I was probably too cocky, thought I could cope with anything on my own. It didn't cross my mind that I would get into a situation. I honestly thought that I would be able to reason with him."

Her attacker gained another conviction, for biting off his estranged wife's ear; he suspected her of having *shopped* him to the RSPCA.

Needs, who grew up on a farm in the Cotswolds, decided as a child that she wanted to work with animals. She always knew that working for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was not going to be about dressing cute creatures in bandages. But that nasty incident, four years ago, illuminated a hitherto unseen side of our complex relationship with animals.

As a BBC fly-on-the-wall documentary, *Animal Police*, shows, the pet owners who come under the scrutiny of Needs and her colleagues are as far removed from the cuddly world of Rolf Harris and *Animal Hospital* as it is possible to be. "Before I joined I thought we were a nation of animal lovers," says Needs, who features in the series. "Compared to some countries, I suppose we are.

"This job opened my eyes. I see animals that have been starved, beaten, thrown out of windows. People still think it is acceptable to drown kittens. I have had cases where it is clear that an owner has had sex with their animal. I never knew that this went on."

Most cases the charity deals with do not stem from deliberate cruelty — its 310 inspectors deal more with ignorance than maltreatment. Of 600 complaints handled by inspectors in Cheltenham and Gloucester last year, 500 involved giving owners advice (15 resulted in prosecutions, the rest in verbal warnings). Some calls are unnecessary — "you sometimes get reports of horses looking lonely and sad" — others are plain malicious.

> 'I go home, have a good cry and take it out on my punchbag'

One of today's calls, about a cat being kicked by children on rollerskates, seems to stem from a feud between neighbours. The mother of the children, a young black woman, claims that she is being racially harassed. She has installed a camera to monitor the front of the house, and says the situation is so bad that she has been issued with a mobile telephone by police. Out comes Needs the negotiator — she sympathises, while gently reminding the woman that any animal abuse, no matter how abhorrent the owner, is intolerable.

A talent for diplomacy is just one of many prerequisites for becoming an inspector. Competition to join this elite is fierce: more than 2,000 people apply each year for about 20 places. Despite her formidable personal skills and impressive CV (eight O levels, three A levels, a business studies course and a spell working in America), Needs had made contingency plans — if she had not been accepted first time, she would have tried to enter the police force, then reapplied to the RSPCA after gaining experience.

Candidates, who must be at least 21, undergo literacy, observational and psychometric tests, and are then invited to an interview. Getting on to the course in Horsham, West Sussex, is almost the easy bit — during their seven months' training, prospective inspectors must master legal matters and veterinary science, demonstrate prowess (swimming, abseiling and operating a powerboat are on the curriculum), visit an abattoir and learn how to kill animals painlessly and deal with uncompliant pet-owners.

Even though Needs has been bitten by a rottweiler (the middle finger of her right hand is now largely numb), it is the people, rather than the animals, who seem to be the hardest to deal with, which is why inspectors are trained in self-defence — people who abuse animals are sometimes very unsavoury indeed.



Jo Needs with a rescued cat: "If I got desensitised, I'd quit"

"On my visits I occasionally come across children with bruises and cigarette burns," says Needs. "I have seen people kick automatic weapons under chairs when I walk in the room. I never let on that I see, but as soon as I leave I tell social services or the police."

While she thrives on never knowing what she is going to confront, the stress gets to some. One of the 18 people she graduated with gave up after two years: "She got tired of the unpredictability of the role, never knowing what was behind the door. I sometimes get wary, too. But if you start worrying too much, you'd never knock on another door. Generally, people are quite positive. I do get the odd sexual comment but people shut up when they realise I'm serious."

If a call does look suspicious, inspectors visit in pairs. Otherwise, they work alone. Needs and her colleagues do meet once a week, though, in the regional office in Gloucester. "We are all odd and have a wicked sense of humour. We have a laugh and unwind," says Needs, who is known to her colleagues as the Belingo Babe, after the name of her new Citroën van.

Inspectors hit the roads at 8.30am every day and finish at about 5pm. Then comes the paperwork, which adds another couple of hours. Inspectors are on call every fifth weekend and do one night shift a week. Needs's spare time at her rented home in the Gloucestershire countryside is spent looking after her two dogs and five cats, all rescued, in the gym or writing short stories and poems (she briefly considered becoming a journalist).

Her husband, Gareth, a car designer, worries about the dangers and sometimes accompanies her on night visits. But he knows she will never give the job up.

"The day I got the acceptance letter from the RSPCA was the best day of my life," Needs says, laughing. "I knew that if it was a skinny letter, it was bad news, and if it was a big fat bundle, I had got it.

"When this bulky parcel arrived, I knew that my dreams had come true. I hugged the postman and cried my eyes out. Gareth knows how much I have wanted to do this and that it will always come first. There is a never a morning when I don't want to get up and go to work. I am lucky because it is fairly well paid, and I would do it for less."

Few people, one suspects, would have the stomach to do it at all, given the acts of wickedness that inspectors occasionally face. "I once found a kitten whose back legs had been chopped off," says Needs. "Blood was pouring out of the box. I was so glad that I was able to put it to sleep."

Other incidents stick in her mind. "The first was three greyhounds locked in a garden shed. When we went in we found only their bones. It stank of rotting flesh. There were rats everywhere and scratch marks on the door where the dogs had tried to claw their way out. People were living in the house. They never even turned up in court.

"The other involved a girl who went to live with her boyfriend, and visited her Staffordshire bull terrier only at weekends. It starved to death. You could fit two fists between its neck and collar.

"A post-mortem examination showed that all it had in its mouth and stomach was dried spaghetti. It must have gone to a cupboard and tried to eat the first thing it found." Offenders face up to six months in jail, a £5,000 fine and a life ban on keeping animals.

"I do see upsetting sights and I admit to going home and having a good cry and taking it out on my punchbag. But I know that there are animals I help.

"Sometimes it's just ignorance, or the way that people have been brought up. I once came across a man who locked his dog up in a filthy lavatory for 23 hours every day. There were faeces everywhere. I asked him to step into the toilet, then closed the door behind him, so that he knew how it felt.

"The next time I came to visit he had built a kennel and a run. When you see an animal that has been living in terrible conditions and go back a few days later and they are much happier, you think 'I did that'. It's better than a prosecution, because in those cases the damage has already been done."

Needs says she would give up the job only if she felt she was becoming desensitised. "I have heard that some people have left because of that, and I hope it never happens to me. You have to distance yourself from what you see and be professional, but it still upsets me when the cat brings home a rabbit. If I stopped being upset, I'd quit."

She suddenly thinks of another reason for leaving — winning the lottery: "I won £2,500 once, and I buy at least one ticket every week. If I won a million, I'd set up my own animal rescue centre. But I'd buy a Chanel suit and a Vivienne Westwood dress first."

● Animal Police *is being shown on Mondays on BBC1 at 9.30pm.*
Links: www.rspca.org.uk

JONATHAN OLLEY / NETWORK



An illegal breeding establishment: most cases that the RSPCA deals with do not stem from deliberate cruelty

Tesco brings out the baby in men

Store crèches aim to ease male angst, says **Vanora Bennett**

Whatever happened to the hunter-gatherers of prehistory, our tough, hairy, spear-wielding male ancestors who could be relied upon to venture out of the cave every rainy Saturday morning and bring home the bison?

Their descendants live on in our cities and suburbs, but Tesco's latest consumer research has cast serious doubt on whether the woad-free British man can survive in the concrete jungle. So angst-ridden are today's men about the weekly grocery shop, Tesco says, it is creating a stress-free in-store play zone where men can take refuge while their female mates fight through the aisles to grab the meat, veg and teabags needed to sustain 20th-century life.

"The plan is for a crèche for men, where women can leave their husbands and boyfriends," says Russell Craig, Tesco's spokesman, suppressing a giggle. "It will have a video wall, sports magazines, fruit machines and pinball games."

> 'It's better to put men in a place where they will be happy'

The idea — to be tested out at Tesco's new superstore in Peterborough, Northamptonshire — is based on research showing that 74 per cent of men would rather stay at home watching sport on television than go food shopping, but 46 per cent were scared their partners wouldn't speak to them if they refused to go. (Not surprisingly, the 21 per cent who said they enjoyed visiting supermarkets did so only because they could steer the trolley.)

Women, it seems, are also happy at the idea of getting their men out of their hair: 68 per cent found their partner's glum, twitchy presence a distraction from the business at hand. They wanted the man along only to do the driving, or to get him out of the house.

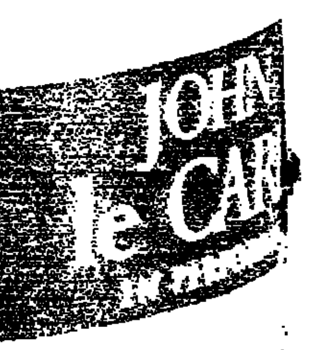
But where did this infuriating idea of treating your man like an extra childcome from? From observation at the 55-checkout Peterborough superstore, where male shoppers already take comfort from a giant sports screen over the aisles.

"There's a lot of congestion by the screen," says Melodie Schuster, a spokeswoman. "The men just stand there with their mouths hanging open. You have a hundred things to buy, and have to weave in and out between them down the aisles. Put them in a separate room and there will be more space."

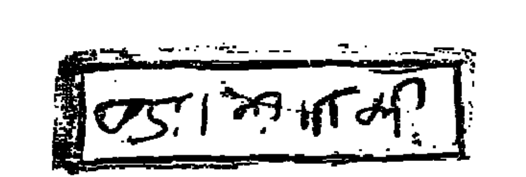
So while women have advanced from the kitchen to the boardroom, men have regressed from the boardroom to the play room.

While the average woman now does only 65 per cent of domestic chores, compared with 80 per cent in the Sixties, women still do most of the washing and ironing around the house. The one big change, highlighted in a recent British Social Attitudes Survey, is that half of all couples now say they share groceries shopping equally. But, if the Tesco concept catches on nationwide, even this small advance is likely to be eroded.

Tesco is unrepentant. "It's better to put your men into an environment where they will be happy," says Schuster. "You can call Kevin once you get to Aisle 4 and he'll collect the shopping, put you in the car and run you home. Everyone's happy."

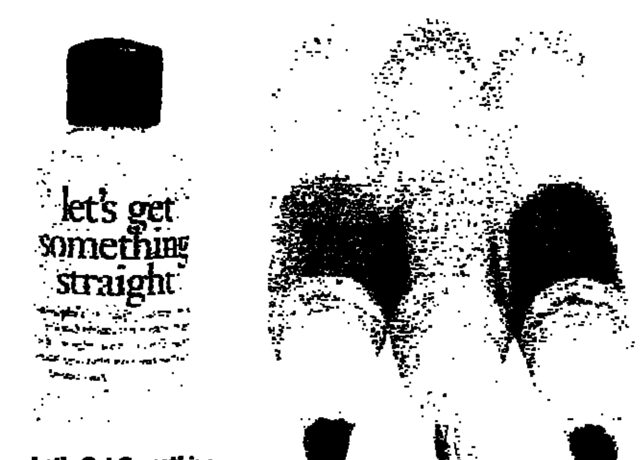






MAKING UP IS NOT HARD TO DO

Getting the look: key beauty trends



Let's Get Something Straight hair-straightening serum, £9.50 *by Philosophy, available from and Liberty (0171-734 1234)*

Lip Gloss, £8.50 *by Ruby & Millie, available from Selfridges, Oxford Street W1 (0171-629 1234)*



Cream Blusher in Milan, £12 *by Face Stockholm, available from Liberty (as above)*

Stila Liquid Make-Up, *£24.50 available from Space NK (0870 169 9999)*

- **Packaging that reveals the inner workings (like the Pompidou Centre):** Ruby & Millie's transparent eye and lip pens, £8.50, Boots, Harvey Nichols and Selfridges.
- **Natural, easy to use, multiple-use products:** nars's Multiple, a blush, eyeshadow and lipstick in one, £26, Space NK.
- **Cosmetics that also treat the skin:** Chantecaille's moisturing eyeshadows with antioxidants, £16.50, Space NK.
- **Personalised scents:** Forget big brands, be individual. Try Jo Malone Scents, £29.50, Jo Malone. Or go for shower gels and soap powder such as Tocca's Laundry Delicates, £9, Space NK.
- **Blushers that give a just-been-for-a-brisk-walk look:** Nars has one called Orgasm, £16.50, Space NK.
- **Sheer foundation that reveals the skin beneath:** Stila's Liquid Make-Up, £31; Chantecaille's Real Skin, £39, Space NK.
- **Free-sale shopping:** No more over-madeup hags trying to sell you the whole range, but a new breed who will introduce you to lots of lines. See Selfridges in London.
- **Making a focus of one feature:** It's eyes or lips, not both.

ROBERT FAIRER



Future perfect: you can look natural and well-groomed at the same time thanks to simple, easy to apply, multiple-purpose products

Call sign to bag the VIPs



THERE has always been an element of competition among designers who want to give favoured guests a memorable party bag at their fashion shows. Will it be their latest gift-wrapped scent (not an option for most British designers, who don't have one), sunglasses, an ornamental fan . . .?

Designing the invitations so that they stand out from the hundreds of others is another source of stress. In France, naturally, there is even an award every season for the best invitation. Last season it was won by John Galliano for his animal-print evening bags, which contained the invitation, streamers, lipstick, (fake) pills that looked like Qualuudes — everything, in other words, that Galliano Girl requires for a night out.

This season Matthew Williamson has upped the ante — he has signed a deal with Motorola to provide VIP guests with its latest technology, a teeny mobile that makes last season's Nokia look a tad bulky.

Williamson has even designed special beaded and velvet-trimmed bags for the phones, which will be sent out with the invitations soon. It's fiendishly clever: not only will the speculation about who is sufficiently a VIP to receive the Motorola last from now until after the show in a fortnight's time but, as Williamson says "anyone not in their seat 15 minutes before the show starts will be easily contactable".

■ ASKED once whether she would chose to be born beautiful or stylish, Anna Wintour, the Editor-in-Chief of American *Vogue*, opted for beautiful because "style, hopefully, can be learnt later". Style can, perhaps, be learnt, but only by those with a predisposition. The rest of us have to settle for looking smart, or for being "appropriately" dressed, or for aiming always to have enough all-purpose basics in our wardrobe so that we never have to say we haven't got a thing to wear. On the face of it, these don't seem very high-flying accomplishments — until you try to achieve them.

What Should I Wear?, subtitled *Dressing For Occasions* (Thames and Hudson, £16.95), landed with a thud on my desk this week (it's coffee-table size, with more than 200 pages), promising to help. It's the latest in the *Chic Simple* series of books that, since their inception five or six years ago, have proffered advice on everything from selecting the right paints and tools (truly) to buying the right furniture or wardrobe accessories. With their earnest dicta (each book opens with the legend "the more you know, the less you need") and accent on keeping up with the Joneses, the *Chic Simple* books are so much a product of the Nineties that they already have a period feel. That said, there is a lot of good advice. The fact that every item of clothing is shot as still-life, rather than on a model, means the book looks great, although not having to deal with a real person seems an easy way out. What's interesting is that such a Nineties product should be promoting the idea (not always fashionable, but correct in my view) that rules, however much they have mutated, still apply.

What Should I Wear? tends to promote a scientific, orderly approach to clothes, rather than the emotional response that makes buying fun. For instance, how to choose the right coat: "Look for a coat you can wear when dressed up or down (a reversible coat or one in black, which also won't show the dirt). As with your suitcase, think lightweight (microfibres)" and so on.

While science and orderliness have a place in getting dressed, this means that many of the recommended items veer towards the conservative. But even if you only dip in, this book will make you review some practices. It won't make you stylish but, come the urge to buy a neon-yellow dress, it may prompt you to get matching accessories.

MAKING UP IS NOT HARD TO DO

Britain's new beauty barons

The cosmetics business was once dominated by French and American brands. Now that has all changed as four British entrepreneurs have developed their own highly individual ranges

Jo Malone, purveyor of some of the most fashionable scents in London and New York, has just stepped off a plane from Chicago, where she starred in an Oprah Winfrey television special on entrepreneurs. Nicky Kinnaird, the managing director of the Space NK Apothecary beauty chain, has been nominated as Businesswoman of the Year.

Meanwhile, three months ago, Ruby Hammer and Millie Kendal launched a range of upbeat, mid-priced cosmetics that is well on target to achieve a turnover of more than £5 million in its first year.

Meet Britain's new beauty tycoons.

Ten years ago ambitious young British entrepreneurs did not make their way into the beauty industry. This was for a good reason: that apart from Yardley, which reeked of quaint mending-and-making-do virtues, the Body Shop and a few cheap, teenage brands, there wasn't one.

Lisa Armstrong FASHION EDITOR

Beauty, so the wisdom of the times went, was in the eye of the French and American brands. So savvy entrepreneurs here set up mobile-phone companies, headed for the nearest silicon valley or went into real estate.

For two years Nicky Kinnaird contemplated taking on a nearby retail site. She took on the lease when it became available in 1993 and, at 27, set up Space NK, a store dedicated to hip new fashion designers. Space NK broke most of the rules when it was launched in Covent Garden in the depths of a retail slump, and without any external presence (entrance was via an escalator that was all too easy to miss).

Within a year, it was apparent that the beauty sector, with its tempting mixture of the traditional (Kiehl's) and the obscure (Kinnaird introduced Stila and Philosophy, among others, to the UK), was the shop's runaway success story. She ditched the clothes. "Make-up is a lot less seasonal," she says.

Six years later, with nine Space NK shops nationwide, a successful mail-order catalogue and a transformed landscape across the beauty floors of the country's leading department stores, it's a wonder she didn't take the plunge earlier. Kinnaird was born and raised in Belfast and has always loved cosmetics. She talks of "that camaraderie you got as a teenager when all your friends came round to put their make-up on together before going out, and the smell of cologne that I remember when I walked around the cafés at night on holiday in Spain".

Abiding as her love for cosmetics was, she had never liked shopping in department stores. When Space NK divested itself of clothing to concentrate on make-up, the idea was to introduce Britain to the delights of specialist shopping.

"There had always been small shops on the Continent selling lingerie or lace or face creams," she says. "Their service was much more personal and I felt the products looked much more tempting. Also, I wanted people to feel that when they walked into Space NK, they weren't just going to get one range pushed at them."

Kinnaird's timing was impeccable. The only way for retail in the dark days of 1993 was up, she says bullishly. Also, after years during which superbrands such as Estée Lauder and Revlon had reigned supreme, customers were becoming increasingly receptive to small, individual lines, some of them launched by make-up artists they dimly recalled from glossy magazines, others entirely obscure.

"British consumers had become so educated and discriminating by the early Nineties that they no longer needed the safety net of big-brand advertising before they'd invest in a product," she says.

To gauge the influence that Space NK has had in the intervening years, you need only to look at the overhaul of the beauty departments in stores such as Liberty, Dickins & Jones and Selfridges and the invasion by increasingly arcane ranges.

"Nicky Kinnaird has done an enormous amount to change attitudes to beauty," Jo Malone says. "British women now feel much less guilty about spending money on themselves. They want value for money, but that doesn't necessarily mean the cheapest."

Malone, who set up her shop in Walton Street, Chelsea, at about the same time as Kinnaird was hatching Space NK, shares an evangelical enthusiasm for what she does. But whereas Kinnaird was experimenting with Miner's at 13, Malone, whose mother Eileen was a beautician, was sitting in laboratories at the age of six. At nine she was mixing her own potions with a pestle and mortar. By the time she was 17 she had 20 to 30 clients, who visited her flat and guarded her name with a Proustian fastidiousness.

Then her bank manager foiled her plans. She wanted to create perfumes but he wouldn't lend her the £200 she needed to go to Paris. Undeterred, she sold some jewellery, bought a return ticket to Paris and, because she hadn't enough money to stay in a hotel, spent a day in a laboratory there designing her first scent.

There was no money left to turn it into an alcohol-based fragrance, so she took the sample back to her kitchen in London, used the money her husband had earmarked for a bed to buy a kilo of oil and 200 plastic bottles, and turned her potion into bath oil, which she began giving to her clients as thank-you presents. It was only when one of them asked her for a hundred bottles to give to her party guests, 86 of whom called her the following week to get hold of more, that she began to sell it.

There are now 14 Jo Malone scents. All of them are highly distinctive, as you might expect from someone who was once moved to nip into the lab after strolling down the Champs-Elysées hand in hand with her husband and smelling the food from restaurants mingling with the lime blossom lining the avenue. The result, French Limeblossom, contains a twist of tarragon to evoke the cooked-food element and, like all her scents, is deliciously unique.


Malone: television star


Kinnaird: nominated

"The days when everyone wanted the same scent are over," she says. "It's easy to make one sale; to get a repeat you have to educate. I want to teach women how two different scents can take a daytime outfit into evening."

Malone, now 34, is the creator of a beauty and scent range that has been the bestseller at Bergdorf Goodman in New York for two consecutive months, an unprecedented feat for a British brand. But despite plans to launch a range of fragrances that will be more widely available, she is anxious not to expand too fast.

Millie Kendal, 31, a former beauty PR, and Ruby Hammer, 37, a well-known make-up artist, are, by contrast, happy to expand as quickly as possible. The two had been friends for eight years: Kendal handled the PR for Aveda, the American eco-range that Hammer's husband George introduced to Britain.

"It was George who spotted the potential of putting the pair of us out there as a commercial concept," says Kendal.

Both are make-up addicts and come to the business from "a consumer angle — everything had to be super simple and look great" (they hired the designers Wright and Teague to produce the eye-catching, transparent packaging).

Ruby and Millie were extremely smart in launching with the backing of Boots, which has woken up to the appeal of personality-based make-up ranges. Investment from the country's leading cosmetic manufacturing company meant that their range benefited from impressive research and development and could sell at medium-price points. The most expensive product, a foundation, costs £15.

But their big coup was getting the brand into chichi stores such as Harvey Nichols and Selfridges, as well as 20 or so branches of Boots. They will launch in The Netherlands in June, Thailand and Japan at the end of the year and don't even ask how many faxes they receive each week from *Allure* magazine, New York's beauty bible.

While it's clearly gratifying for two make-up junkies to have a brand of their own, the differences between the two national approaches can probably be summed up as follows: while the likes of François Nars and Bobbi Brown fly Concorde into London to make much trumpeted "personal appearances", Hammer is still travelling the world as a sessions make-up artist. Kendal's most recent personal appearance was at the counter of her local Boots in Brent Cross.


Ruby Hammer, left, and Millie Kendal launched a range of mid-priced cosmetics that should gross more than £5 million in its first year

STYLE FILE by Deborah Brett

Boyd: magpie

TRACEY BOYD
Fashion designer

Describe your personal style.
Eclectic magpie: anything that glitters.

What period do you love?
The Thirties for their glamour and craftsmanship and the Sixties for their guts and madness.

What accessory can you not live without?
My Solange Azagury engagement ring — a daisy with a circular, pale-pink stone with plum petal-shaped stones around it.

What is your pet hate?
Catwalk nightmares that look ridiculous and unflattering — padded bottoms, humped shoulders.

What do you think of current trends?
I love the combination of a masculine cut with feminine trims, and the use of technology, such as cutting fabric with lasers to recreate a hand-crafted outfit.

What is your style motto?
Don't be a fashion slave.



THEATRE

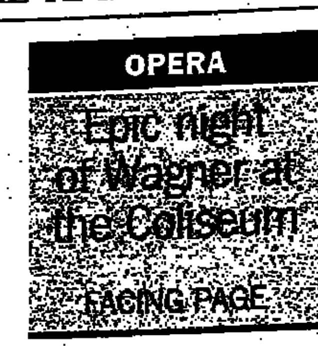
Triumph across the Channel for Donnellan

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Epic night of Wagner at the Coliseum

FACING PAGE



France adores Chic By Jowl

Declan Donnellan took on Corneille in his own back yard — and won over a nation, writes Andy Lavender

It is not quite like teaching your grandmother to suck eggs and have her thank you for it, but there is something equally engaging about Declan Donnellan's latest adventure abroad. Donnellan was approached by the organisers of the Avignon International Festival, France's prestigious annual theatre celebration, and asked if he would like to direct a production. *Le Cid*, Pierre Corneille's verse drama of 1637, was his choice. "And they said, 'Ah, that's very difficult'," Donnellan recalls. "'There was a famous production, it's very difficult to follow.' I thought it was a joke. And then I discovered it wasn't."

Put simply, he had chosen a play right at the heart of France's love affair with its own theatre heritage. Jean Vilar, the festival's founder, had directed a production of *Le Cid* in 1949 that passed into folklore. Here, it seemed, was the definitive staging of one of the most celebrated works in the entire French canon. Only a fool or an upstart would dare to restage it at the scene of Vilar's success.

Donnellan pressed on, and the shadows behind him were shown as just that. His production was the hit of last summer's festival, lavishly acclaimed for its modernity, its theatricality and its eye-opening perspective on a play that everyone thought they knew.

The production vividly recalls the kind of theatre which Donnellan produced as the director of Cheek By Jowl — almost balletic in its fluidity, precise and clear in its meanings. The dazzling Avignon run was followed by a swiftly organised tour of French towns and cities. Later this year the company travels to New York and possibly Russia and Africa. Right now, though, you can catch it at London's Riverside Studios.

Le Cid revolves around a duel fought by the young Rodrigue and the nobleman Don Gomès. The latter has insulted Rodrigue's father. He is, himself, the father of Chimène, the woman Rodrigue loves. She is understandably torn once her suitor emerges victorious. On the surface, at least, the story is about those dry-sounding virtues, honour and duty. But that, says Donnellan, is only half the story. The play is written in alexandrines, couplets arranged to a syllable-count with a mid-line break and alternating rhymes. This pristine structure, he argues, contains a mass of darker stuff.

"It's written to be half of a whole," he explains. "So when somebody says something, they're also saying the opposite. As soon as Rodrigue speaks of honour he speaks about shame at the same time. What's fantastic is that Chimène absolutely wants him dead at her feet and she absolutely wants him in her bed."

Characteristically, Donnellan's rehearsal process got the actors to explore such stuff through the very way in which they moved. "At the beginning we did a lot of work to really understand that verse is very little to do with the intellect, that it comes from the body. The actors were fantastically open. I can't imagine a French director coming to England and telling the English how to speak blank verse."

In the most striking departure from tradition, the production's hero is markedly unheroic. The newly quivering Rodrigue is played by William Nadylam, a black actor chosen after Donnellan had auditioned more than 200 performers — another forward move, in a country not known for integrated casting.

Nadylam is clearly taken with the director's methods. "Declan makes me think about a grandmother that has very old recipes that you would laugh about, but that make you stay alive," he says. "And he makes me think of a little brother who comes to you with his big, innocent eyes and asks you questions that you have to answer."

What next for this intriguing figure? Donnellan is returning to London to direct productions in the West End of Noël Coward's *Hay Fever* and Sophocles' *Antigone*. Next year he might return to Russia, where he recently staged a production of *The Winter's Tale* for the renowned Maly Theatre in St Petersburg (the show begins a tour of Britain in April). "I do feel that I'm broadening, and I feel good about that," he says. On the other hand, he claims to be uncomfortable with a freelance existence.

Donnellan and Nick Ormerod, Cheek By Jowl's designer, might still relaunch the company they put in storage, but on altered terms, one presumes. "Nick would very much like to have a space," says Donnellan. "I'm very interested in having a company of actors. Maybe I could have a company in France if I couldn't in England."

This sounds like both a wish-list and a warning shot. Decent support, or goodbye. It's hardly the way of the British funding system to go out on a limb for talented individuals. But there can be little doubt that Donnellan is making ground as an international director of real clout. Peter Brook is routinely cited as the iconoclast who was so good that he had to leave England to find more suitable conditions elsewhere. You could imagine Donnellan, too, settling in Paris.

● *Le Cid is at the Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111) until Feb 26*



More than 200 actors tried for the part of Rodrigue in Declan Donnellan's *Le Cid*. William Nadylam landed it

Second helping

IT ALL depends on the setting. Come across a sozzled raconteur propping up a bar, and he will have you edging towards the door. But put him on stage and he becomes an endearing companion, a compelling poet of the pints.

Eamon Morrissey's earlier one-hander, based on the viscous wit and wisdom of Irish writer, columnist and bar-room sage Flann O'Brien (aka Myles na Gopaleen, real name Brian O'Nolan) pulled off just that trick, and has been entertaining audiences since 1974. His new play, although it weaves in much of the old material, is set 25 years later, and his character (an amalgam of O'Brien and his writ-



ings) is apparently institutionalised, older, sadder and more sober.

The bravado is still there, if watered down. Morrissey treats us to a rambling compilation of bromides on the dangers of grinding your teeth, the breeding habits of ducks, the importance of pockets as a mark of civilisation, drinking in the morning (a good thing) and atomic theory (if molecules transfer from one body to another, surely over the years you become part bicycle, and your bicycle becomes part you). It gets a bit repetitive after a while, although things pick up in the second half with a hilarious demonstration of how to maintain the public appearance of sobriety with the help of a pair of stout-proof trousers.

The secret of O'Brien's humour lies in its construction of bravura but sophistical disquisitions from seemingly logical but really quite meaningless pieces of wisdom ("If you can't speak you can listen twice as well as a man who can", "Very few chain stores sell chains"). Repeated like mantras by Morrissey, they become staging posts to nowhere, or at least to a whimsical parallel world. A diverting evening, though little more than the sum of its hand-me-down parts.

NIGEL CLIFF

A taste of things to come

JAZZ

Nigel Kennedy
Birmingham

A few years ago Nigel Kennedy gave a Midlands audience an early glimpse of the fruits of his obsession with Jimi Hendrix. Now, with a fully fledged Hendrix suite due to be released shortly, he returned to Ronnie Scott's in Birmingham but with a very different format. A giant portrait of Duke Ellington forms part of the decor at this version of the Soho jazz institution. On this occasion it also served as a reminder that Kennedy has been mixing genres since the early 1980s, when he released an album combining Bartók and a thoughtful precis of Ellington's *Black, Brown and Beige* suite.

No one quite knew what to expect this time around. In the event the violinist was content to play more of a supporting role alongside Caleb Clarke, a Jamaican-born singer and guitarist based in Kennedy's adopted home of Malvern. Audiences on the Continent have had more opportunities to get the measure of Clarke, who has been playing encores on Kennedy's recent classical tour. Here, in contrast, his appearances have been confined to low-level dates in pubs.

Informality was the keynote of a set devoted to his amiable folk-like tunes, all delivered in a light if unspectacular voice. Jazz it wasn't, but there was the same seat-of-the-pants mood to the interplay between a trio completed by double-bass player Rory McFarlane.

Swigging from a bottle of water as he joked with audience members near the stage, Kennedy was clearly in relaxed, busking mode. At least one of Clarke's tunes was so fresh off the page it did not even have a title. Some of the more reflective pieces, betraying the occasional hint of the blues, had a touch of Ted Hawkins's spare poetry about them. Although an entire programme of original material was bound to stretch him too thin, *Sin and Shame* and *Touch of An Angel* left an unmistakable afterglow.



Nigel Kennedy: happy to share the musical limelight

Having quipped at the outset that we were about to hear a little rockabilly, Kennedy did not over-extend himself in his solos. All the same it would have been fascinating to have heard how far the pieces had evolved by the third and final night of the residency.

Without the help of heavy amplification, he extracted molten guitar-like lines on *Tree of Life*, building simple figures to a forceful climax before allowing the final phrases to die away like the quietest of sighs. All in all, a tasty hors d'oeuvre: the main course is still to come.

CLIVE DAVIS

An eagle lands

Benny Green
Maidstone

VERY few pianists in jazz are developing at the same rate as Benny Green. Since leaving Ray Brown's mainstream trio he has worked in several contexts, from duos with his mentor, Oscar Peterson, to his own trio with Ben Wolfe and Kareem Riggins. In 1997 he brought that trio to Britain, playing his own compositions, experimenting with variations in metre and developing his already formidable technique. He returned last year, in company with drummer Duffy Jackson, and his focus had shifted back to interpreting the standard repertoire.

His current tour finds him digging further into his explorations of standards. At first glance, the word muscular would not be the adjective that springs to mind to describe the slight figure of Green. But there is no other word to describe his keyboard attack. It has grown in confidence, power and aggression, and even when he works in the middle register with just one hand the force of his playing and of the thought behind it stand out.

The two British members of Green's trio, bassist Andrew Cleyndert and drummer Steve Brown, are no mere passengers. In the clear, resonant setting of the Pizza Express jazz room, they played with no PA, and used the acoustic balance of the trio to feed ideas to one another. In a stomping version of *Don't Blame Me*, built around Cleyndert's bass solo, Green's exuberance spilt over into handclaps between his piano phrases, and he alternated this with some tender unaccompanied ballad choruses on *My Heart Stood Still* and *When Your Lover Has Gone*.

Green's former boss Ray Brown once said he wasn't sure when Green would "land" as a soloist, and find his own authentic voice. On the evidence of this tour, Green has "landed" in style.

ALYN SHIPTON


DONALD COOPER

A living drama: Kim Begley as Parsifal and Kathryn Harries as Kundry in Nikolaus Lehnhoff's superb new staging of Wagner's last opera

The road to redemption

OPERA: Rodney Milnes on English National Opera's new production of Wagner's *Parsifal* at the Coliseum

If Wagner's last opera is at one level about the redemption of the world in which we live, then in one sense Nikolaus Lehnhoff's new production — which is by a very, very long way the most thoughtful and satisfying I have seen — is about the redemption of the work itself. There are unpleasing subtexts about racial purity lurking in the text, which were made much of by the composer's disciples and are not ignored in the uniformly excellent programme notes; Lehnhoff's staging transcends, indeed redeems them.

Lehnhoff's way in, in his first attempt at the work, is via Wagner's own study of Buddhism — he sketched a Buddhist drama containing many parallels with *Parsifal* — and the clash between East and West in Wolfram von Eschenbach's poem, the earliest source.

Christian symbolism is played down: the Grail is represented by light, the Eucharist only discreetly suggested. Andrea Schmidt-Futterer's costumes for the Knights are inspired by the terracotta army discovered in China. They, together with Raimund Bauer's abstract set, its grey cheerlessness in turn redeemed by Wolfgang Göbbel's indescribably poetic lighting, manage to encapsulate all human experience, right up to the third act's railway line, that most distressing of 20th-century symbols. It is a *Waste Land* world, a Beckett world; both are persuasively cited in the programme.

If all that sounds off-puttingly austere, it shouldn't. Lehnhoff's production is lively, physical and tactile — living drama, not ritual.

Kim Begley's vibrantly sung Parsifal, a dreadlocked Noble Savage, is no passive observer of the knightly rites but one whose incomprehension is made flesh, and the way he and Kathryn Harries's Kundry, an unsettlingly erotic creature even when in "serving" mode, circle each other like two dangerous wild animals in the seduction scene has the audience tingling with anticipation. The Flower Maidens, that graveyard of so many productions, are beautifully managed, brandishing their little stamens to entrancing effect.

Harries's eternal-feminine — part bird-woman, part vampire, part Madonna, and with a smile to either freeze or inflame the blood — is the most amazing creation, and many readers will be glad to hear that it is she, as Earth Mother, who leads the community off at the end to have another, more successful try elsewhere.

The relationship depicted between Jonathan Summers's almost too graphically pain-racked Amfortas and the father he has failed (a warmly sonorous John Connell) approaches the unbearable when the old man's corpse is disinterred and shaken in front of him: the Knights are throughout signally lacking in compassion. Save one: Gurnemanz, who cradles him at the end of the first act, a simply magnificent performance by Gwynne Howell. With his grave dignity, beautifully moulded phrasing, and impeccable enunciation of Richard Stokes's clear, careful and communicative translation, you felt that the 30 years of his career had been leading up to this crowning triumph.

Mark Elder, too, approaches his first *Parsifal* as drama, not ritual. There is a blessed lack of portentousness, a concentration on easy dramatic flow, a characteristically fastidious care for texture and balance. Every word is easily audible. Orchestra and augmented chorus are superb.

The whole evening betokened the work that had gone into the preparation. The experience was profoundly stirring.



Gala without golden touch

CONCERTS

LMP/Bamert
Festival Hall/Radio 3

Fifty years ago last Thursday the London Mozart Players and their founder Harry Blech gave their first concert. It began and ended with Mozart's Symphonies Nos 28 and 29. And so did this Royal Gala Concert at which Blech was present to celebrate repertoire and playing the like of which was certainly not to be taken for granted in 1949.

Simon Callow shared his experiences of being 50 in some kindly introductory remarks. James Galway played an Irish jig for Blech. Prince Edward watched politely from the royal box; and the LMP played politely down below.

Matthias Bamert has been music director since 1993, and nothing he conducts is ever less than well-mannered and meticulously cultivated. But there are times when there is not much more; and this gala evening was one of them.

Perhaps the very sense of occasion threatened to overwhelm the music-making. The two Mozart symphonies were dispiritingly lacklustre, unsearching in their phrasing and articulation.

The LMP were only pale accompanists, too, for soprano Barbara Hendricks in three Mozart arias, sung as if on expressive autopilot. James Galway takes over as principal guest conductor in September, and he bestowed many a twinkling smile on his new friends during the course of his performance of Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp with Marisa Robles.

Perhaps the premiere of John Woolrich's Concerto for Orchestra, specially commissioned by the LMP, would at last inspire some real interpretative substance? This commission celebrated an important missing link in the LMP's history: the period between 1983 and 1992 when Jane Glover was music director. Woolrich is typical of the many young composers whose new work the LMP championed and took into their repertoire during this period, as Glover pitted music of the 1780s against that from the 1980s in an imaginatively planned series.

The new Concerto for Orchestra is not the virtuoso showpiece that its name implies. Orchestral soloists and sections are not spotlit: the music is intended, rather, to celebrate the corporate skill of this band. It does so in a somewhat laboriously crafted 18-minute movement, dominated by a motif of barking downbeats set into shifting contexts. Each one is tense with a volatile nervous energy, and finds respite only fitfully.

HILARY FINCH

A powerful hand in silken gloves

Vienna SO/Fedoseyev
Barbican

This was the Vienna Symphony, not the Vienna Philharmonic, loftily dispensed with in the programme as the city's "opera orchestra". It didn't take long for audience members to spot the difference — *women*, in the string sections! Five of them! Nor will those under any illusion that it was the VPO have been disappointed: this seasoned ensemble has the sheen and rustle of silk under the hands of Vladimir Fedoseyev, chief conductor since 1997.

The glorious, limpid cello solo heralding Strauss's *Vienna Woods* Waltz proved to be a calling card: theirs is a spacious string sound of high finesse whose inner parts were sonorous and detailed. Fedoseyev is a joy to watch, a proper conductor with beautiful gestures, and he teased out an elastic performance of Strauss's charming ramble.

Then on, from the sketch of an urban sophisticate to Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony*, with its outdoor exhilaration. The palpitating happiness of the opening had the airy vigour of scudding clouds, and the storm brought an inkling of the orchestra's potential power. Everywhere were touches of class: blissfully pure and even winds in the first movement, the "Scene by the brook" opening with gauzy gentleness, an exquisite pianissimo string patter in the third movement, and the exposed running scales of the finale fluent and clean.

Tempos were swift but never driven, and only occasionally did Fedoseyev's rhythmic grip lapse. He brought out the visionary moments of the storm and its aftermath, where premonitions of the next hundred years of music strike the listener with each new hearing. Only in the finale was it clear that serenity would win out over passion — the glories of the chorale were not brought fully to fruition.

The balanced, blended and understated quality of the VSO was used to great effect in the Mozart Piano Concerto No 20, although marred by some imprecise violin intonation and articulation. Artur Pizarro gave a characteristically acute reading, with a pearl-like purity of sound.

Ensemble between himself and the orchestra was fine-tuned. The Romance, with its grand melody and tempestuous middle section, has symphonic proportions, and here some further engagement from the performers might have heightened an otherwise keen performance.

HELEN WALLACE


This week in THE TIMES



■ OPERA

Carlo Rizzi conducts Welsh National Opera's new *Peter Grimes* in Cardiff
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ DANCE

Jeremy James & Co kick off the *Spring Loaded* festival at the Place
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



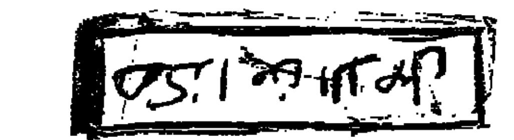
■ FILM

Nick Nolte gives a strong performance in the bleak and tragic *Affliction*
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

■ POP

American rock sensation Sheryl Crow returns to Wembley Arena
GIG: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

PLUS: Pinter's *Birthday Party* with Prunella Scales is staged in Salisbury



When the scoundrels have to go

Parliament's job is scrutiny — not playing hunt the scapegoat

Impeach him. Resign. Such insistent demands by angry legislators are invariably disappointed. President Clinton's acquittal by the Senate and the Blair Government's brusque dismissal of the Foreign Affairs Committee's criticisms over the Sierra Leone affair show how the executive holds most of the cards. It is time to rethink conventional ideas of accountability.

The tortuous impeachment process in America is based directly on British experience, which speakers in the trial often cited. Indeed, Erskine May, the parliamentary rulebook, lays down how impeachment could, in theory, still occur here. The procedures and language are similar. The Lower House (of Representatives, or the Commons) draws up articles of impeachment for "high crimes and misdemeanours" and appoints managers to conduct a case before the Upper House (the Senate, or the Lords).

In the 17th and 18th centuries, impeachment was a means of attacking ministers of the Crown without confronting the monarch directly. The American founding fathers deliberately included the President. However, while American procedures have not changed in the subsequent two centuries, British practice almost immediately altered. Impeachments disappeared with the growth of Cabinet collective responsibility, as opposed to ministerial dependence on the Crown. Administrations could be removed, and often were in the 19th century, by successful votes of no confidence in the Commons.

Peter Riddell

The theory of ministerial accountability has become very slippery. There was never an idyllic period when politicians were men of honour and accepted responsibility for all the actions of their departments and resigned. The behaviour of Lloyd George and Rufus Isaacs in the Marconi shares scandal of 1912-13 was far worse than anything that Peter Mandelson did, yet they stayed and he went.

The Crichel Down case in 1954 is often cited as proof of earlier high standards but it is widely misunderstood. Sir Thomas Dugdale resigned as Agriculture Minister not because he took responsibility for what officials did, but because he had lost the confidence of fellow Tory MPs.

Subsequently, attempts have been made to distinguish between accountability and responsibility and between policy and administration. While a minister is accountable, in the sense of being publicly answerable, for everything done in a department, no one would argue that he or she should be held personally responsible for all actions by officials. But that does not help in the controversial case. A minister in trouble may have to explain the situation to MPs, but he usually tries to wriggle out of taking the blame.

Whether a minister stays or goes reflects the political pressures of the day, rather than an absolute constitutional doctrine. Most resignations have, anyway, been because of personal actions rather than public conduct. Resignation hunting is the knee-jerk reaction of frustrated Opposition politicians and an excitable media.

The media has become more central to accountability than the Commons. Mr Mandelson spent 24 hours trying to stay in office by giving interviews but decided to resign when he believed he had lost the battle of the airwaves and the leader columns. Unfortunately, few politicians, or Prime Ministers, are willing to stand up to the Savonarolas of the *Daily Mail* and *The Sun*.

Yet the infrequency of resignations, particularly over policy, is also because governments believe their mandate is derived directly from the people. Having won office after an election, ministers argue that it is solely for voters to give their verdict. One of the strongest arguments against Mr Clinton's impeachment was that his Republican accusers were trying to overturn the result of the ballot box. What the President had done wrong was not sufficiently serious to justify reversing the result of the 1996 election.

This shift from representative to popular control entails a redefinition of accountability. As the Public Service Committee of MPs argued in July 1996: "Proper and rigorous scrutiny and accountability may be more important to Parliament's ability to correct error than forcing resignations." The combined impact of the Nolan and Scott reports in 1995-96 was to put greater emphasis on accountability in terms of openness and disclosure. But there has always been a tension between formal accountability and the desire of ministers and officials to carry on business without too much public scrutiny. That conflict is again seen in current attempts in Whitehall to limit the extent of disclosure (the so-called harm test) in the forthcoming freedom of information legislation.

The ultimate justification for the inquiry by the Foreign Affairs Committee into the Sierra Leone affair was to ensure such accountability to Parliament. The Government did itself no good by rubbishing the report immediately and arguing that it was unnecessary because of the (heavily sanitised) departmental inquiry by Sir Thomas Legg. However, it is questionable how far it is fair to criticise named officials who have no right of reply. This is also a threat to ministers, since civil servants may demand the right to dissociate themselves from their political masters. Similar issues arise now over the BSE inquiry which could be as politically explosive as the Scott report.

Instead of always trying to attach personal blame, and find scapegoats, the real focus should be on finding out what has happened and securing a full explanation. Throwing the scoundrels out is a job for the electorate — and Parliament's role is to provide voters with the information to do so.

peter.riddell@the-times.co.uk



A culture of corruption

The Clinton case was simply the latest manifestation of the new world order of bungs and backhanders

There is a simple rule to apply to Bill Clinton: when he is down, he is about to come back up, and when he is up he is about to fall back down again. His whole political career, since he was first elected as Governor of Arkansas has been that of a robber Humpty Dumpty. He was first called the Comeback Kid when he lost the governorship and then won it back.

His moment of maximum danger is when he is up. Then he is likely to make one of the hubristic mistakes which have disfigured his career. The moment of danger for his opponents is when he is down; he is then as dangerous as a cornered animal. By this rule, the Democrats should view his acquittal by the Senate as a portent of trouble to come. I do not expect him to spend his last two years in the White House quietly improving his reputation in history. On the contrary, he is quite likely now to alienate a number of those who have supported him through thick and thin.

Even the Senate vote has been ambiguous. He was acquitted, perhaps wrongly, on what was certainly the wrong charge. As I have argued earlier, there are two dark themes which run through Clinton's career. One is his abuse of women; not one woman but a Don Giovanni list of 100, 200, whatever. I find no account of a single case in which he has treated the woman well. The other is the money — not his personal money, but the $50 million to $100 million he has raised in political funds to fight his campaigns for Governor and President.

Clinton's relationships with the suppliers of these huge funds, and his abuse of state funds in Arkansas, may indeed contain high crimes and misdemeanours. The funders have included Dan Lasater, the millionaire cocaine felon and bond dealer who was a close friend, Don Tyson, whose firm made the "profit" of $100,000 for Hillary, and mysterious Chinese companies. The question is what these providers of funds were getting for their money.

There are also the kickbacks to campaign funds which were alleged to have been given by those given loans by the Arkansas Development and Finance Administration in the old days. Clinton signed off all the loans. If Kenneth Starr had concentrated on the money trail, he would have been investigating the serious public issues. By following the women, staggering though those stories are, he was trotting, like a bloodhound with double cataracts, after a red herring.

However, if Starr had followed the money trail, he would have embarrassed not just the Democrats, but the Republicans as well. There is no major American politician who has not taken campaign funds from people who wanted something in return. Doubtful funding happens even here, where campaigning is much less expensive. The largest bank in Arkansas, which funded Clinton in the 1980s, also helped to fund Bob Dole the Republican presidential candidate in 1996. The trouble with Bill Clinton's fund raising was that he seemed prepared to take money from anybody, regardless of their character or of what the underlying deal would be.

William Rees-Mogg

One important thing that Kenneth Starr did prove was that Clinton was a liar. He lied on oath; equally importantly he lied on television to the American people. "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Monika Lewinsky." That was a memorable moment in the history of the American presidency. Integrity in politics is largely concerned with truth and money, and much less often with sex as such. No one can now pretend, and few people still maintain, that the President of the United States is a man of integrity.

The American people, or the majority of them, particularly the women, seem to think that this is quite acceptable. They resent the idea that the President should be held accountable. The Democrats in the Senate, led by Ted Kennedy, of all people, either decided that Clinton did not lie on oath, which he plainly did, or that perjury does not matter. That is an understandable view for Ted Kennedy to adopt, given his past problems.

The world has the worry that corruption is now spreading throughout politics. Clinton may have set a bad example, but he is not alone. One can almost say that corruption has now become the global norm.

The American constitution has not proved strong enough to nail down the Clinton scandal; the constitution of the European Union is not strong enough to nail down the financial scandals of the Commission. Most Labour MEPs, following their whips, voted against sanctioning the Commission for its irregularities.

Those who are amazed at Clinton's skills in beating the rap, should also feel amazement at Jacques Santer's skill in screening the errant and peccant from a just censure and removal at Strasbourg. They mislaid some 10 per cent of the Commission's budget: Clinton never mislaid anything like so large a sum. No one has called Jacques Santer the Comeback Kid, nor Edith Cresson the Comeback Queen of Europe, though she seems to bounce unscathed from one failure to another.

What countries are even relatively free from corruption? Not France, where the most recently revealed Mitterrand scandal seems to have had a price tag of $2.5 billion; the whole Arkansas Finance and Development Administration amounted to only $700 million, though one has to admit that Arkansas is smaller than France. Not Ireland or Belgium, small European countries with big financial scandals.

Not Britain. We bury our biggest financial scandals for a generation at a time, leaving them to be disinterred lovingly by historians after 30 years have past. The Lloyd's catastrophe, which ruined 20,000 families, has never been adequately investigated; Maxwell's close associates are still walking the streets, the picture of health and good humour. By and large, in Britain as in France, Europe has a secretive culture when it comes to our own scandals. At least in America things are somewhat more open. We actually now know about 10 per cent, perhaps 20 per cent, of the things Bill Clinton got up to.

No doubt wealthy advanced economies can support the marginal cost of corruption, but weaker economies cannot. Russia has been looted and ruined. The Asian depression of 1998 was partly caused by corruption; Indonesia has been ruined by it. Even the two countries with the largest populations, India and China, see corruption as a major economic handicap. Several sub-Saharan African countries have also been ruined by criminal dictators, such as Bokassa or Mobutu, who shifted much of the national wealth to their own Swiss bank accounts. In these countries children die of malnutrition because of past corruption.

Corruption does ruin some countries, but it destroys public trust in all of them. This is not a party matter. John Major's government gave glib assurances about BSE, which proved unjustified. The distrust resulting from these assurances, which put the supposed welfare of farming ahead of public health, has undermined trust in Tony Blair's very similar assurances about genetically modified food. No one thinks that money passed hands in either case. The farmers did not contribute except trivially, to Conservative funds; I do not imagine Monsanto has contributed to Labour funds, but it has certainly lobbied in favour of its products.

People suspect that there is a culture of lobbyism and cronyism, of spin and sympathy, an exercise in the exchange of the favours of power, which accounts for too many public decisions. This damages business, which has its own mistrust to face. Who now trusts the tobacco companies? Or the pharmaceutical companies? Or big oil? Or offshore arms contracts? Corruption now even damages sport, with allegations of drugs, bungs, bets and the case of the Olympic committee.

In late 18th-century and early 19th-century Britain, honourable people, many of them evangelical Christians, were outraged by sinecures and corruption, and successfully rooted them out of British public life. For more than a century, the British even ran their huge empire without bribes. Now there is a new and global wave of corruption. We need a new sense of outrage, which is lacking in the US Senate, in the European Parliament, and lacking, alas, in Downing Street itself.

comment@the-times.co.uk

Alcoholism, the Russians understand. This must be a really big drinker, even worse than me, they think with grudging reverence

It can be extremely difficult to get hold of my friend Roma. At weekends he is what is called a *Tamodar*, a Georgian word meaning toastmaster. He turns up at weddings just after the "I do" bit but before everybody sits down to dinner (Russian weddings are round-the-table events), performs a welcoming ceremony which involves salt and vodka and starts entertaining people. He tells jokes, makes toasts and organises games for about seven hours as the guests get drunker and drunker and drunker.

Roma never touches a drop. "I tell them I'm a recovering alcoholic. They won't listen to any other excuse," he says. This is true. Drinking Russians are deeply suspicious of teetotallers and often view it as a sign that the sober person holds them in contempt. "Don't you respect me?" they will ask until you cave in and start drinking vodka shots with them. Alcoholism, on the other hand, they understand. This must be a really big drinker, even worse than me, they think with grudging reverence.

Roma's wedding guests number anywhere between 20 and 300 but the price is not pegged to the quantity of revellers. Before the beginning of the economic crisis in August he would turn down offers of $150 (£93) for his services but now he is forced to *Tamodar* for $50 or less. When things are getting boring he chooses someone who looks game and starts to lay into them, to the great glee (he claims) of the other guests. He insists that he is not the equivalent of an English best man because Russian grooms have a best man as well.

Roma has a wedding every single Saturday, all year round, though he performs under various different pseudonyms so as not to have to pay protection to the *Tamodar* mafia. His work tends to begin around 2pm, just giving him time to fit in a morning of editing before he has to be off. For Roma is also the producer/presenter of a hugely popular late-night television programme aimed at new-rich Russian men. In fact I first met him at a St Andrew's Day dinner in a Moscow hotel. He was dashing about with a camera crew asking the men what they were wearing under their kilts.

Anna Blundy

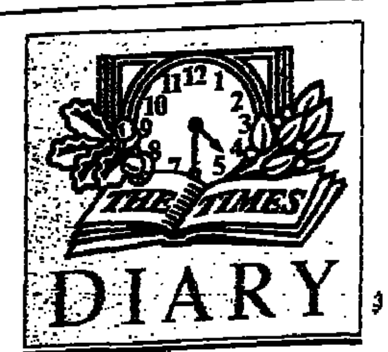
Alone, Roma has to prepare four, five-minute slots per week, which would be quite enough for any man but he also has to do all his own research and tape editing and he is allowed to use the camera for only one day a week. This job earns him about $30 a month. In the early evening, if he is not still at work, Roma goes home to be with his wife and baby son. "I am a real peasant," he says. "I can't let my wife work." He was brought up to believe that a man should support his family, and support his family he will. But that is not to say that he is idle of an evening.

Most days a senior Russian general will call and invite Roma round to give him piano and accordion lessons for $5 an hour. The general is convinced that Luzhkov will be the next President of Russia and Roma insists that he is a man who would know. But if the general does not request the pleasure of Roma's presence, Roma gets down to some real work. He writes freelance articles for a huge collection of foundering magazines, all of whose readerships have plummeted since the crisis. "I'm a journalist at heart. Not so much a journalist but an engineer of human idiocy," he laughs, playing with an official Soviet title.

Although, in fact, by education Roma is a musician and a graduate of an extremely prestigious music school, the Gneissen Institute, which produced the virtuoso pianist Evgeni Kissin. Roma is quite often booked to play his accordion or the keyboards for advertising jingles or for independent recording artists who are trying to produce their CDs on the cheap. He insists he is not alone in having more than five jobs — he knows hundreds of doctors and musicians who moonlight as taxi drivers and at least one circus performer who in the evenings has a job for an escort agency delivering prostitutes to mainly foreign clients.

Even with his nightmarishly hectic schedule, Roma is barely holding things together financially, for he loathes business and refuses to get involved in the buying or selling of anything except the things he can offer himself. As his country's economy collapses around him he is attempting to stay true to the things he loves. And the amazing thing about Roma is that he is 25 years old.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Nimby blues

SIR ALAN and Lady Walters have become the victims of free enterprise. Despite opposition from Baroness Thatcher's monetarist adviser and his wife, Westminster is to allow David Emil, patron of Manhattan's Rainbow Room, to open for business round the corner from their Mayfair residence.

The New Yorker has hired David Rockwell to spend £3 million on premises in Berkeley Street which will entertain up to 473 customers, with two restaurants, bars and a dancefloor until 3am.

Lady Walters is frustrated that she and her neighbours failed to discourage Westminster's enthusiasm for deregulation. "It's part of the Soho-isation of Mayfair," she tells me. "One would just hope people will be decorous." Sir A's 1974 *Noise and Prices* might now need to be revised.

● *THE newly installed Bishop of Southwell, the Venerable George Cassidy, nearly binned the job offer because he thought it was yet another piece of dreary junk mail from English Heritage.*

Oh, Wuther!

THAT artistic outpost in the North, the West Yorkshire Playhouse, has confused the area's most acclaimed literary daughters. The theatre sent leaflets of its forthcoming production of *Wuthering Heights* to 1,000

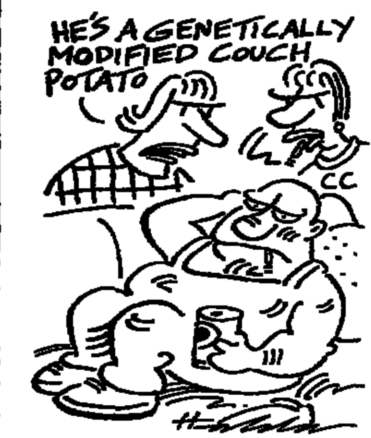


subscribers, featuring a picture of Charlotte rather than Emily Brontë. The Playhouse's excuse? "If you look at a picture of the three sisters [above], they are identical."

● *CAN Mark Seddon possibly be causing trouble for Peter Mandelson, his colleague on the NEC? His* Tribune *this weekend quotes the inventor of new Labour in 1970: "Comrades, as a political party committed to socialist principles, we must fight under the banner of these principles. We can either go stronger to play our part in the fight for a programme of socialism or we can descend into absurdity."*

Trading up

THE Duke and Duchess of Devonshire plan to expand. They wish to open a branch of their charming farm shop at Chatsworth in London. On offer will be meat from the Derbyshire estate and delicacies such as Her Grace's fruit cake. "Many farmers are dealing with the devastation of the beef industry by doing B&B," a friend of the couple tells me. "But they cannot possibly do that at Chatsworth."



● *LADY Meyer's bad hair day. When she prepares to play hostess for Sir Christopher, her husband, at the British Embassy in Washington, she is almost defeated by FCO parsimony: "I switch on my hairdryer and the lights dim."*

Mass protest

ORGAN wars at Mayfair's Farm Street Church. During Latin Mass at Britain's grandest Roman Catholic establishment, where regulars include the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, Sir Alec Guinness and King Juan Carlos, Father Vincent Hawe's attempts to show the Host at the second Agnus Dei were twice defeated by crashing chords from the organ loft.

When he finally got a chance to gain his audience's full attention, the Jesuit priest commented noisily: "And for the third time." Fur coats in the pew were shocked as much by his words as his use of English.

● *THE next lecture at London's Arab Research Centre is entitled: "The Palestinian Issue: the difficulty of moving forward or backward."*

JASPER GERARD



BALKAN BRINKMANSHIP

Serbs and Kosovans have five days to do a deal

Madeleine Albright's message yesterday to President Milutinovic of Serbia could not have been blunter. Unless the Serbs begin serious business at the Kosovo peace talks, they face Nato air strikes. Her exasperation, shared by all the Contact Group members, is fully justified. For a full week, wasting time and international effort, the Serb delegation has attempted to use the Paris conference for propaganda. It has refused serious consideration of the framework agreement and its annexes and has tabled no amendments, supposedly on the grounds that it is awaiting instructions. Instead the Serbs have demanded that both sides first sign an agreement guaranteeing Yugoslavia's territorial integrity: this is a precondition that they know is unacceptable to the secessionist Kosovo Albanians.

Reluctantly, the Contact Group has agreed to another five days of talks. But already the velvet gloves of diplomacy are being set aside. Ms Albright told Mr Milutinovic that if the Serbs are the cause of a breakdown, America was determined to go ahead with the air strikes already authorised by Nato. Her warning has been usefully reinforced by President Clinton's announcement that America was ready to contribute up to 4,000 ground troops to a Nato force of 30,000 that would police an eventual deal. Serbia can no longer count on the West's reluctance to commit its forces to intervening — either as peacekeepers or, if necessary, to confront Serb troops.

Britain and France, co-chairing the meetings, have been less explicit in public but no less determined to end the Rambouillet charade. In this they have been supported by the Russians, who know that unless they can produce concessions from Belgrade they have no hope of preventing Western air strikes. Moscow has long lost patience with President Milosevic: its support for Belgrade has little to do with any Slavic feeling and everything to do with its desperate attempt to forestall Nato military hegemony in the Balkans.

Ms Albright has succeeded at least in forcing the two sides to meet face-to-face. But this does not signify much. Both want to give an impression of negotiating in good faith; neither has any intention of doing so. The sticking point is the military annexe to the framework agreement. This calls on the Serbs to withdraw their troops, rein in their special forces and accept the deployment of foreign soldiers.

Mr Milosevic has repeatedly demonstrated the mendaciousness of past such undertakings; he seems to think that only the threat of further massacres will prevent an armed uprising by the entire Albanian population. The annexe also calls on fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army to lay down their arms and return to their villages. Few of the monitors in the field expect them to do any such thing. Indeed, arms are still pouring across the Albanian border; youthful volunteers are swelling the KLA's ranks; and secure bases are being constructed in the mountains secure from both Serb or Nato attack.

Tony Blair made clear at the weekend that the West has no intention of sending Nato troops to Kosovo unless and until a political agreement is in place. The message is directed at the KLA. Nato is not the KLA air force, nor are Western troops available to secure a free hand for secessionists. The military compromises demanded by the propsed framework agreement will only be possible if the Contact Group is uncompromising with both sides.

Prospects for success at Rambouillet are poor. The Serbs are still not reconciled to any meaningful autonomy; the Albanians are determined to fight for immediate independence. They have five days to draw back from the brink.

I HAVE A THEME

A Tory agenda is discernible across the Atlantic

William Hague took a risk in venturing across the Atlantic at the point when the impeachment debate reached its denouement. He seemed only to be confirming his reputation for lucklessness by seeking out American politicians at a time when their attentions were inevitably elsewhere. But if there was a damp squib in Washington this week, it was the climax of the President's trial, not Mr Hague's visit. The Conservative leader may not have dominated television screens stateside, but he did find himself on the same wavelength as some of the continent's most successful centre-right politicians.

The elixir of political success does not always travel well. But there are signs that Mr Hague has been emboldened by his experiences to develop new themes for a more modern conservatism. On arrival he explained that he had come to exchange ideas, not just pillage them. But he conceded that the United States, with federal, state and city governments, was a political laboratory on a scale unmatched anywhere else. That observation was a indication of a growing turn towards decentralisation. The promotion of diversity in adminsitration as a good in itself, and a competitive goad to the improvement of services, is becoming a Hague theme.

The Conservatives displayed an indifference towards local government which hardened into distaste during the Thatcher and Major years. It will take some time before memories of that hostility fades. But the enthusiasm with which Mr Hague applauded the effects of decentralisation on New York schools was an earnest of intent.

His meeting with George W. Bush Jr, the Governor of Texas, was intended to showcase the salesman for a more compassionate conservatism. Mr Hague hoped to learn from the Governor the trick of trumping a centrist opponent. British and Texan notions of compassion do not always overlap. Enthusiasm for state execution is unlikely to be interpreted in the United Kingdom as a kinder, gentler politics, but it is a precondition of power in the Deep South. Yet, despite those divergences, Mr Hague did appear to have been stengthened in some of his convictions after meeting Mr Bush. The Tory leader's desire to create a more inclusive party, by challenging traditional prejudices and appealing to constituencies hitherto neglected, reflects the Bush agenda of raiding for votes in enemy territory, especially among ethnic minorities.

Mr Bush is not the only American on the Right who has outflanked the Left. The New York mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, has been under siege this week following the death of an unarmed black man at the hands of his police officers. The tragedy has distracted American attention from the real improvement in crime rates and welfare rolls during Mr Giuliani's tenure. But Mr Hague was attentive to the underlying trends in the city, and showed a willingness to think afresh on policing, emphasising the need for a step change in the management structures of law enforcement agencies if policies such as "zero tolerance" were to be anything more than rhetorical flourishes. Impatient Conservatives sometimes fear that, shorn of his rhetorical flourishes, Mr Hague has still to prove himself.

There is still a considerable distance to travel before he inspires a feeling of easy confidence in his capacity to govern. But his journey to America, and his exploration of new political territory, are steps in the right direction.

A SPORTING CHANCE

A spirit of fair play is the soul of football

The best measure of Arsenal's grand sporting gesture at the end of their match with Sheffield United is to consider how football would stand if that *beau geste* had never been made. Football has often fallen foul of fair play in recent years. Cut-throat commercialism and lucrative win bonuses have shouldered good sportsmanship off the pitch. And Saturday's FA cup match might have descended into on-pitch chaos and vituperative post mortems after Arsenal's new Nigerian player, Nwankwo Kanu, intercepted a ball that was being returned to the opposition after it had been kicked out of play following an injury to an opponent.

Turning it across the goalmouth, Mr Kanu presented a teammate with the opportunity to take an easy goal. But tempers were soothed by Arsenal's manager Arsène Wenger. Taking an unprecendented decision, this Frenchman reminded the English inventors of football of the honourable principles underlying their sport by offering United a replay. "It wasn't right to win that way," he said.

Arsenal has among the worst disciplinary record of any premiership football team. Seven players have been sent off this season alone. So Mr Wenger's decision does much to redress the less than perfect reputation of his club. But more than this, in the same week in which the MCC has decided to enshrine a phrase about the "spirit of the game" in cricketing laws, he has made the sort of gentlemanly gesture which helps to reinstate fair play at the heart of sporting endeavour. In a culture of intimidation of referees, of gamesmanship and professional fouls, old-fashioned rectitude makes a rare lap of honour.

The Football Association, which has won a dithering reputation in recent years, gave its support to Mr Wenger with unusual alacrity. There are those who will cavil that in doing so it has undermined the authority of adjudicating officials in real time; that the referee's decision will no longer be regarded as unquestionably final now that it has once been overturned. There is a risk that the game could be exposed to unscrupulous copycat claims in the future. But the convention that, after injury, the ball should be returned to the fouled player's goalkeeper is long held and conciliatory. The FA was right to support it, even if not officially written into the rules. And, although it is unlikely that a replay could have been forced, once Arsenal had called for one it was appropriate to accept. The gate money taken at the annulled match should be given to charitable causes. Football has won an opportunity to show that it values a spirit of sportsmanship more highly than success alone. It should make the most of it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

UK's obligation to intervene abroad

From Mr Edmund Cairns

Sir, Simon Jenkins (February 10) takes issue with my article in the journal, *Renewal*, which combines praise for where the Government has firmly defended human rights with encouragement for it to do rather more so. More importantly, he criticises the Government on Kosovo for doing rather too much. "All this," he mocks, "[is] because murders were committed by paramilitary gangs operating entirely within the borders of a sovereign state."

Whether or not the outside world has any business in preventing such murders — in Sudan as much as Kosovo — is the fundamental disagreement. On the one hand, some welcome the development of international law over more than 50 years, which now holds that some actions by states, murder for instance, are so wrong that they violate universal human rights, and place some obligation on other states to do what they can to prevent them. This view leads to the court case in London this week over crimes committed in Belarus, as well as attempts to end the killing in Kosovo.

Others hold the view that whatever a state does is its business alone. The choice between those views is quite a basic moral one — a belief in universal rights or not. But even if most of us hold that belief, it prompts the question of how best we, as outsiders, can help.

Working with those inside a country seeking peace and human rights is perhaps a fundamental. But it does not mean that there are no times when outside troops are required to protect civilians from the bullets of their brutal governments — or indeed rebels.

If this is so, Mr Jenkins suggests satirically, "Sandline International and its ilk" will have to do it. I hope not. Last year's Strategic Defence Review suggested that such operations would become more common for Britain's more formal armed forces. Where the UK can make a useful contribution, with others, in Kosovo and elsewhere, it should.

Sincerely,
EDMUND CAIRNS,
Walnut Cottage,
32 High Street, Haddenham,
Buckinghamshire HP17 8ER.
ecairns@lofgren.demon.co.uk
February 11.

From Mr J. E. Humphrey

Sir, Do not the tortuous Kosovo strivings add weight to the opinion that there is a fundamental and extravagant unreason in the supposition that, through the agency of the United Nations, Nato or otherwise, we have a right or duty to intervene in civil wars or like upheavals abroad?

Is it not arrogant to assume that our ideas for a solution are welcome imports for peoples with centuries of different culture and history behind them?

Is there not an impracticability in committing ground forces to operations among a populace at loggerheads with itself and in unfamiliar terrain, where our troops would have little way of knowing (until first shot at) who was friend and who was foe? And does not that very impracticability result inevitably in prevarications, frustrations, bluff, deadlines, "final" warnings which are not final and, ultimately, perhaps, in inconclusive assaults with explosives, carrying more peril to innocent civilians than to the warring factions?

Does it not need some re-thinking?

Yours faithfully,
J. E. HUMPHREY,
9 Offington Gardens,
Worthing, West Sussex BN14 9AT.
February 12.

From Mr David Damant

Sir, The present Foreign Secretary may perhaps learn a lesson from the behaviour of a former Foreign Secretary at a meeting held at the Foreign Office on May 25, 1913:

> The delegates of Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro and Turkey, somewhat sheepish in their frock coats, were ranged one by one upon the carpet. Sir Edward Grey advanced towards them and fixed them with his eagle eye; he pointed towards them with an outstretched and imperative finger; he summoned to his assistance the total resources of his Wykehamist French. "*Ou signer*," he shouted at them, "*ou partir*." The Treaty of London was signed between Turkey and the Balkan states on May 30. [From *Lord Carnock*, by Sir Harold Nicolson.]

The lesson is, however, that only a month later the second Balkan war broke out, between Bulgaria and Serbia . . .

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DAMANT,
Agar House,
12 Agar Street, WC2N 4HN.
February 12.

God and judgment

From Mr Robert Wilson

Sir, I would prefer to be judged by Canon John Halliburton's loving, forgiving God as opposed to a cruel and vindictive one (letter, February 5). I'm just delighted by a leading churchman's belief that, come Judgment Day, we might be given a choice.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WILSON,
7 Heron Drive, Stanstead Abbots,
Hertfordshire SG12 8TU.

New Labour and dangers that are not so new

From Mr David W. Faull

Sir, Very occasionally, perhaps once in every 25 years, there appears in the press an article which is seminal, and that written by Lord Beloff (February 9; letters, February 11 and 12) is one. He may have exaggerated his case, but the general thrust was something that has needed to be said for a long time. This is a dangerous government and you now hear people saying this.

The Government's policies in the Middle East and Ireland have failed, its social policies are incoherent and unjust, it has attacked pensions and reduced the value of people's savings at a time when it alleges that it wishes people to be more self-reliant in providing for themselves.

It is forcing the people down the road to a single currency, carefully not explaining the implications for ordinary people. Its transport policies are ill-conceived and simply designed to raise revenue under the guise of environmental improvement, but in reality increasingly fragmenting society by making travel too expensive.

Financial policies continue the unfair and unjust drift to indirect taxes instead of lowering them and raising direct taxes — again undermining social cohesion. Overall, of course, taxes could and should be lowered.

Much more seriously, Parliament is being treated with scant respect, the Union is undermined and the second chamber is destroyed (not reformed), with no one knowing what will replace it. The Blairs are presented as the First Family, thus undermining the Royal Family. Power moves steadily into the hands of a very few.

If one thought that any of this was directed towards creating a more just, equitable and God-fearing society one might feel one should accept it. But it is not, and we shall be destroyed if we do not wake up to it.

Yours faithfully,
D. W. FAULL,
Lanteglos House,
Saint Thomas Street,
Wells, Somerset BA5 1UZ.
February 11.

From Lord Grenfell

Sir, As a peer taking the Labour whip, married to a German whose father was hanged by the Nazis in 1944 for his anti-Hitler plotting, I am doubly outraged by Lord Beloff's article. To draw such a travesty of a parallel between Tony Blair's prime ministership and the unsurpassed horror of Hitler's dictatorship is totally unworthy of an historian of Lord Beloff's note.

The fact that Lord Beloff is free to express such flawed and offensive arguments in the public prints is evidence enough that the parallel he draws is nonsensical.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN GRENFELL,
House of Lords.
February 9.

From Councillor A. G. D. Wynne

Sir, In February 1950 Winston Churchill published the Conservative election manifesto containing the following:

> Conservatives believe in the Constitution as a safeguard of liberty. Socialists believe that it should be used for Party ends. . . Without mandate and without reason they have reduced the powers of the House of Lords and taken the country a long way towards single chamber government. By over-centralisation of power they have gravely weakened our system of democratic local government.

Half a century on, Max Beloff has expertly examined the threat implicit in the new Labour programme. How little has changed.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WYNNE,
1 Compton Park,
Wolverhampton WV3 9DU.
February 14.

From Mr Andrew Currie

Sir, During the 1980s a defeated and demoralised Left regularly drew comparisons between Mrs Thatcher, Hitler and the Third Reich. It was silly then and it's silly now and, as Mr Richard Wood pointed out (letters, February 11), more down to frustration than historical analysis.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW CURRIE,
115 Northside Clapham Common,
London SW4 9SW.
February 12.

Monitoring QCs

From Mr Andrew Dismore, MP for Hendon (Labour)

Sir, Sir John Lea suggests (letter, February 9) that there is as strong a need for a system to keep "MPs up to scratch after they are appointed", as there is for QCs. He apparently forgets that MPs are elected, not appointed — a fundamental distinction.

Amongst others, there are two crucial differences between the two jobs. QCs are appointed from second-hand information based on secret references never made available either to applicants or the public. MPs are elected through an open, competitive procedure called the general election.

QCs are appointed for life, with no compulsory retirement age or reappraisal, over what could be decades of practice after appointment. MPs are answerable to their constituents, who every four to five years can re-elect or reject their MP.

If the QC system is to survive, then it must become more open in its appointment arrangements, more accountable to the consumer, and cease to be a drain on the public purse. QCs should be subject to appraisal from time to time, required to undergo continuing education in their chosen specialities and subject to a compulsory retirement age.

If judges have to hang up their wigs at 70, why not QCs?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW DISMORE,
House of Commons.

From Mr Benedict Birnberg

Sir, Whilst the Lord Chancellor is looking at the selection process for QCs and who pays for it, he would do well to ponder whether this time-honoured but self-serving designation has any useful place in a modernised justice system.

Yours faithfully,
BENEDICT BIRNBERG,
B. M. Birnberg & Co (solicitors),
103 Borough High Street, SE1 1NN.
February 11.

Visa delays

From Mrs E. Wheeler

Sir, Mr Andrew Nicol, Chair of the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (letter, February 9), writes of the difficulties being caused to the international business community by the virtual shutdown of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate of the Home Office (IND). This is only one aspect of the chaos it is creating.

Applications for visas for "foreign" spouses of British citizens have to be submitted with many original documents, including the passport of the British citizen. The IND advises that it is unlikely that applications will be processed in less than eight months.

The result is that the British spouse is effectively deprived of the freedom to travel abroad — even to conduct business — and the spouse has become virtually an illegal immigrant, with no means of identification. Should an emergency create the need to travel, the applicants might be able to retrieve their passports seven days after applying for them and having queued at Croydon. Such action would put the visa application at the back of the queue.

Is it lawful to treat people in this way?

Yours faithfully,
E. WHEELER,
The Old Bakehouse,
Minster Lovell,
Oxfordshire OX8 5RN.
dwheeler1@compuserve.com
February 11.

Bug alert

From Mr Brian Tomlinson

Sir, The Millennium Bug really works. Today, the first of a set of annual alarms on my computer went off. When I cancelled it, it promptly recycled endlessly from 9 Feb 99 to 9 Feb 1900, requiring me to cancel each one as it came up. I could not get at the parent program to stop it.

It was not difficult to recover and delete all alarms from the program, but had it been some kind of automatic, unattended system . . . ?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN TOMLINSON,
56 Hermitage Court, E1 9PW.
briantomlinson@freeuk.com
February 9.

An eye on the past

From Mr N. J. Thompson

Sir, Congratulations to the scientists from Indiana State University who have discovered that some birds sleep at night with one eye open (report, February 4). Sadly they are late with this revelation. A glance at The Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales* will show that, in about 1386, Chaucer wrote (Nevill Coghill's translation):

> And the small fowl are making melody
> That sleep away the night with open eye.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL J. THOMPSON,
Hurdley Hall, Hurdley,
Churchstoke, Powys SY15 6DY.
February 4.

Zinoviev Letter

From Mr Robin Bruce Lockhart

Sir, Although I do not quarrel with the conclusion by Ms Gill Bennett, chief historian at the Foreign Office, that the Secret Intelligence Service played no part in forging the Zinoviev Letter (report, February 4), I believe that it is wrong to attribute the forgery to White Russians living in Latvia. There can be no doubt that it was organised by Sidney Reilly, a British spy, assisted by Vladimir Orlov, an ex-Cheka officer who had fled to Berlin from Russia.

Reilly's responsibility is proven by writings of his contained among papers which I have sent to the Hoover Institute. It was confirmed by my late father, Sir Robert Bruce Lockhart, the British diplomat sent to Moscow by Lloyd George in September 1918 to work for the downfall of Lenin and imprisoned there for about a month.

It was further confirmed by Reilly's associates in MI1C (forerunner of MI6) and MI5; by a Russian publication in 1966 (the year that the Foreign Office announced that its file on the Zinoviev Letter had gone missing) which quoted Reilly's admission of his role to a Soviet agent provocateur; and by a Soviet KGB officer in 1988, when I visited the USSR for the 70th anniversary of my father's release from the Kremlin.

Sidney Reilly worked for our Secret Intelligence Service right up to his "disappearance" into Russia in 1924; but he was also very much of an independent operator, plotting to establish Savinkoff in place of Lenin. He did not intend to help the Conservatives but simply to arouse anti-Communist feeling in the UK.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN BRUCE LOCKHART
(Author, *Ace of Spies*,
Hodder and Stoughton, 1967),
37 Adelaide Crescent, Hove BN3 2JL.
February 4.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

The Monty style

From Viscount Montgomery of Alamein

Sir, My father visited Manchester Grammar School on October 16, 1945 (Mr Michael Goldman's letter, February 3). He was visiting Manchester to receive the freedom of the city, and at the same time had been invited by the High Master to address the school.

The High Master was Dr Eric James, later Lord James of Rusholme, who had previously been a master at Winchester where I had the very good fortune to be taught by him, and where he had met my father.

Eric James was an inspired teacher and great educationalist, and my father would have been delighted to respond to his invitation to address a school with such a fine reputation as Manchester Grammar School.

Yours faithfully,
MONTGOMERY
House of Lords.
February 10.

From Lady James of Rusholme

Sir, Monty's visit to Manchester Grammar School, in the autumn of 1945, was at the invitation of my late husband, the then High Master, who had taught Monty's son at Winchester during the war years and had got to know him when he came to visit his son.

Monty would stay a night with the Headmaster, Spencer Leeson, and liked to have a discussion party in the evening (he was not without a trace of vanity — he once asked Mrs Leeson what she had done with a photograph of him which was not in its usual place).

I don't know why Monty forgot the visit. He certainly did not forget my husband, as we had a Christmas card every year till he died. It was always the first to arrive.

Yours sincerely,
CORDELIA JAMES,
Penhill Cottage,
West Witton, Leyburn,
North Yorkshire DL8 4LP.
February 3.

From Sir Peter Kemp

Sir, During the war I was a pupil at Amesbury School in Hindhead which the then General Montgomery used as his home when he wasn't chasing the Germans and Italians.

One day he attended the school boxing finals, there to witness small boys beating other small boys into pulp. He duly presented the prizes. Having done that he turned to the loser most covered in blood and took off his own wristwatch and gave it to him.

In the minds of us small boys there was of course no comparison between some cup you couldn't hang on to, and the wristwatch, no doubt still dirty with desert sand, that had belonged to the great man.

I often wonder what the moral of the story is.

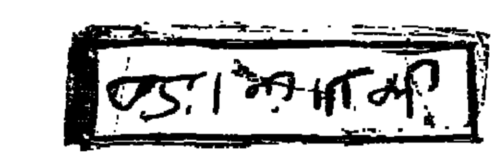
Yours etc,
PETER KEMP,
2 Longton Avenue, SE26 6QJ.
February 8.

Golden years

From Mr Edward Black

Sir, I would contend that the onset of middle age can be determined with some precision (letters, January 5, 12, 19, 26 and 28; February 1 and 8). It occurs at the point where irritation at those who are wont to observe that standards in a certain matter were higher 25 years ago is replaced by a tendency to observe that the skills shown by practitioners of certain arts, sciences or sports are not what they were a quarter century past.

Yours truly,
EDWARD B. BLACK,
32 Hampstead Way, NW11 7JL.
February 9.





COURT CIRCULAR

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 14: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Gala Performance to celebrate the reopening of Wimbledon Theatre, the Broadway, Wimbledon, London.

Birthdays today

Mr John Adams, composer, 52; Mr Clive Aslet, Editor, *Country Life*, 44; Sir Nicholas Bayne, former diplomat, 62; Sir Harold Beeley, former diplomat, 90; Miss Claire Bloom, actress, 68; Mr Tony Bloom, former deputy chairman, Sketchley, 60; the Earl of Carlisle, 50; Mr Dan Crompton, former Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire, 58; Mrs Chloë Davis, former senior information officer, National Citizens Advice Bureaux Council, 90; Sir Maurice Drake, former High Court judge, 76; Mr Frank Dunlop, former director, Edinburgh International Festival, 72; the Countess of Dysart, 85; Mr Paul Ferris, author, 70; Mr Gerald Harper, actor and broadcaster, 70; Professor Andrew Miller, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Stirling University, 63; Sir Richard O'Brien, former chairman, Manpower Services Commission, 79; Mr C.F. Payne, former Chief Constable, Cleveland, 69; Sir William Reid, former Ombudsman, 68; Miss Jane Seymour, actress, 48; Miss Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, 53; Mr P.J. Squire, former Headmaster, Bedford Modern School, 62; Sir Adrian Swire, former chairman, John Swire and Sons, 67; Lord Justice Ward, 61.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Pedro Menendez de Aviles, novelist, Aviles, Spain, 1519; Galileo Galilei, mathematician and astronomer, Pisa, 1564; Michael Praetorius, composer, Kreuzberg, Germany, 1571 (and he died on this day, Wolfenbüttel, 1621); King Louis XV of France, reigned 1715-74, Versailles, 1710; Jeremy Bentham, Utilitarian philosopher, London, 1748; Alfred North Whitehead, philosopher, Ramsgate, 1861; Sir Halford John Mackinder, geographer, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, 1861; Sir Bannister Fletcher, architect and architectural historian, London, 1866; Sir Ernest Shackleton, Antarctic explorer, Kilkee, Co Clare, 1874; John Barrymore, actor, Philadelphia, 1882; H.M. Bateman, cartoonist, Sutton Forest, New South Wales, 1887; Graham Hill, racing driver, London, 1929.

DEATHS: Henry Deane, Archbishop of Canterbury 1501-03, London, 1503; Jan Swammerdam, entomologist, Amsterdam, 1680; Anthony Ashley Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury, writer, Naples, 1713; Gotthold Lessing, dramatist, Braunschweig, Germany, 1781; Henry Hunt, political reformer, Alresford, Hampshire, 1835; Mikhail Glinka, composer, Berlin, 1857; Nicholas Wiseman, Cardinal and first Archbishop of Westminster 1850-65, London, 1865; Alexander Borodin, composer, St Petersburg, 1887; Lew Wallace, American Civil War general and author of *Ben Hur*, Crawfordsville, Indiana, 1905; Herbert Henry Asquith, 1st Earl of Oxford and Asquith, Prime Minister 1908-16, Sutton Courtenay, Berkshire, 1928; Ethel Merman, singer, New York, 1984.

Lecture

Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners

The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners held The STEP Millennium Lecture at Glaziers' Hall, London, on February 10, 1999. Over 120 senior practitioners in the fields of trusts and estates gathered to hear the lecture by Professor Peter Willoughby entitled 'Misplaced Trust'. The Chairman, Ms Philippa Blake-Roberts, chaired the meeting, which was supported by Capel-Cure Sharp.

Mountbatten Festival of Music

Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, was host at the Mountbatten Festival of Music, given by the Massed Bands of the Royal Marines in the Royal Albert Hall, on February 12. Major General Robert Fulton, Commandant General, Royal Marines, was host on February 11 and 13. On respective days the principal guests were Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, Mr Doug Henderson, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, and Lady Pamela Hicks.

Rendcomb College

The Governors of Rendcomb College, Gloucestershire are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Gerry Holden, MA, to be Headmaster from September 1, 1999. Mr Holden is currently Deputy Headmaster of Frensham Heights School.

Tonbridge School

Music, Art and Technology Scholarships 1999

The following awards, listed in alphabetical order, have been made for September 1999:

Music Scholarships
Edward Bonner (King's College School, Cambridge); Oliver Brett (The New Beacon, Sevenoaks); Jonathan Burgess (Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford); Edward Cohen (Oakwood Park Grammar School, Maidstone); Michael Collins (St Aubyns, Rottingdean); Giles Ekblom (Dulwich College Preparatory School, London); Thomas Fleming (The New Beacon, Sevenoaks); Alexander Harrild (Dulwich College Preparatory School, London); Edward Hunt (Sevenoaks Preparatory School, Sevenoaks); Alexander Knight (St Paul's Cathedral School, London); Adrian Ng (St Paul's Co-educational College, Hong Kong); Bradley Webb (Hilden Grange, Tonbridge).

Art/Technology Scholarships
Paul Green (Bickley Park, Bickley); Alexander Heathcote (Heath Mount School, Hertford); James Keane (The New Beacon, Sevenoaks); San Kim (King's College School, Cambridge); Harvey Parsons (Milbourne Lodge, Esher); Daniel Watson (Dulwich College Preparatory School, London).

Today's royal engangements

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron, will attend the Air League's 90th anniversary dinner at the Mansion House, London EC2, at 7.15.

The Princess Royal, patron, the Butler Trust, will visit HM Prison Castle Huntly, Longforgan, Near Dundee, at 10.50; will attend the Scottish Equestrian Association's Scottish Equestrian Gathering and Young Achievers Day at the Gleneagles Hotel, Auchterarder, at 1.00; and as patron, Scottish Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will open the Clackmannan District Citizens Advice Bureau, 47 Drysdale Street, Alloa, Clackmannanshire, at 3.35.

Ball

Oxford Union

The Austrian Ambassador and Dr Nowotny were the guests of honour at an Oxford Union Society ball held on Saturday at the Union Society. Mr Theodore Mills, president of the Oxford Union, was the host. General Sir Hugh Beach was among those present.

Service dinners

HMS Collingwood

Commander Paul Morris presided at a ladies night dinner held on Saturday in< fi10-HMS Collingwood. Mrs Steve White also spoke.

RAF HQ Nato

Air Commodore Phillip Roser, Deputy United Kingdom Military Representative at Nato Headquarters, and RAF Officers, serving and retired, in Brussels, were the hosts at a Valentine's ladies guest night dinner held on Saturday at the Prins Albert Military Club.

Wing Commander John Boyd presided and Group Captain Clive Cooper also spoke. The Belgian Air Force Band played a welcome to the guest who included Mr Leslie Beech, Royal Air Force Association.

FPDC

Mr Neil Telling, President of the Federation of Plastering and Drywall Contractors, and Mr Ernest Pilgrim, Master of the Plaisterers' Company have jointly presented the Plaisterers Trophy awards to the following:

1998 Plaisterers Trophy, the Humber Silver Salver for Solid Plastering and the London and South East Regional award, Windsor Castle, Berkshire, to A G Joy & Son, Diss, Norfolk.

Humber Silver Salver for Fibrous Plaster, British Library, London, to Riverside Mouldings, Greenwich.

Certificate of Merit for Decorative Fibrous Plaster, Aspinall's Club, London, to Clark & Fenn, Mitcham.

Northern Regional award, Debenhams Store, White Rose Centre, Leeds, to Troika Architectural Mouldings, Sheffield.

Scottish Regional award, Edinburgh Castle, to Cliveden Conservation Workshop, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Special London and South East Regional award, Windsor Castle, to St Blaise, Dorchester.

Special London and South East Regional award, Windsor Castle to Hayles & Howe, Bristol.

Crabb Plastering Trophy, St Mary & St Monica's Roman Catholic Church, Huddersfield, to Prontolight Plastering, Huddersfield.

Crabb Silver Salver, Goodwood House, West Sussex, to Hayles & Howe, Bristol.

KATJA LENZ



The film stars Roger Moore and Sophia Loren arriving at the 17th Opera Ball in Frankfurt on Saturday evening. Some 2,500 guests from the worlds of showbusiness, politics and business took part in the gala, "A Touch of Carnival"

Orchids rise like phoenix from the ashes at Kew

By Alan Toogood, Horticulture Correspondent

THE value of fires in tropical forests is not immediately apparent, creating as it does visions of the destruction of vast areas of vegetation.

But controlled fires, as practised by villagers in various parts of the world, including Thailand, Vietnam and Central America, actually help to maintain lowland forests. Burning the dry leaf litter on the forest floor without harming the trees stimulates new plant growth, which benefits the villagers.

This is the message being put across by a display inspired by the phoenix rising from the ashes at the annual Kew Orchid Festival. Orchids in warm colours have been used, such as massed yellow cymbidiums and red phalaenopsis and oncidiums. The phoenix, represented by a woven-willow sculpture, rises through "flames" of red and yellow willow and dogwood stems.

Each display at the festival, which opened yesterday in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, has been inspired by myths, legends and stories, but all have a serious message.

The display of pink and white cymbidiums and phalaenopsis orchids inspired by the Arthurian legends highlights the fact that many forest plants, including orchids, are becoming extinct before their potential value to medicine has been assessed: Merlin the wizard, you may remember, created all his potions from forest plants. So conservation is the message here, as it is in the display of slipper orchids inspired by the Cinderella story. These are under great threat in the wild due to over-collecting, as they are the most desired of all orchids.

The tropical section of the conservatory has a Jack and the Beanstalk theme, with the climbing vanilla orchid representing the beanstalk. Just as Jack returned from his adventure with wealth, so the vanilla orchid is a generator of wealth in Madagascar, where it is the most important export crop.

The tropical display area also shows the orchid diversity at Kew, giving a taste of the sheer variety in shape, size and colour of orchids. Included is the emblem of the festival in the flesh: Darwin's orchid, *Angraecum sesquipedala*, from Madagascar, each flower being equipped with a 12in spur. Darwin studied this plant and thought it must be pollenated by a moth as it reached for nectar at the bottom of the spur. Though ridiculed at the time, he was eventually proved right: it is pollenated by the hawk moth.

A display in the temperate section of the conservatory has a sustaining message. For example, it is far better to harvest orchid seeds in the wild than to collect plants.

Another display dispels the myth that orchids are impossible to grow as house plants. Hybrids of numerous genera such as cymbidiums, phalaenopsis, paphiopedilums, miltonias and oncidiums flourish in the home, being better adapted to drier atmospheric conditions.

The story-inspired displays should appeal to children; indeed, there is generally more interest for youngsters this year, including storytelling in "Dracula's lair", inspired by the bizarre Dracula orchids, which in turn inspired a local artist, Sue Mason, to create a series of pen and ink designs for the exhibition.

From February 27, a display of flower arrangements featuring orchids, organised by the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies, will be in the Waterlily House.

The festival, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, West London, runs until March 28. Entrance is free after admission to the gardens, which are open from 9.30am to 5pm daily (glass houses close at 4.45pm). For information on festival courses and lectures, telephone 0181-332 5626, and for guided tours, 0181-332 5633.

Nature notes

YELLOWHAMMERS are still feeding in small flocks in the fields, coming down where there are weedseeds under the hedges, or out in any lingering stubble. They do not move far in winter, and will soon be singing along the country lanes in their nesting territories. The males already have the bright yellow head and chestnut back of their summer plumage. Lesser spotted woodpeckers are making their spring call in the treetops: it is a thin, repeated note like the signal at pedestrian crossings. They are small woodpeckers, not much larger than a great tit; they have distinctive barred backs and the males have red crowns. Many black-headed gulls have acquired the chocolate hood that they sport in summer. Over a million of them come inland nowadays in the winter, and they are just starting to make their way back to the sea.

A few early hawthorn hedges have sprouted, with little fans of bright green leaves on the twigs. Silver catkins are coming out on the sallow trees. The first colts-foot flowers are opening on wasteland and grassy verges: they are small yellow discs on stiff purple stems. DJM

Church news

The Rev Giles Allen, Curate, Palmers Green St John (London): to be Vicar, Lund St John the Evangelist (Blackburn).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.R. Brookshaw and Miss G.J.K. O'Brien

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Brookshaw, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, and Georgina, younger daughter of Colonel and Mrs Johnny O'Brien, of Wareham, Dorset.

Mr S.L. Greenwood and Miss C.J. Dean

The engagement is announced between Sebastian, younger son of Mr and Mrs Philip Greenwood, of Wardle, Lancashire, and Charlotte, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeffrey Dean, of Bracknell, Berkshire.

Mr G.E.A. Kent and Miss M.L. Griffiths

The engagement is announced between George, only son of Mr and Mrs Alan J. Kent, of Bournemouth, Dorset, and Melanie, only daughter of Mr Jerry Griffiths and Mrs Sue Griffiths, of Noosa Heads, Queensland, Australia.

Mr M. Kuentz and Miss A. Crum Ewing

The engagement is announced between Michel, elder son of Mrs Yves Kuentz, of Nîmes, France, and Arabella, daughter of Mr H.J.F. Crum Ewing, of Reading, Berkshire.

Mr E.A.W. MacLeod and Miss T.C. Richardson

The engagement is announced between Ewan, only son of Mr and Mrs Rory MacLeod, of Templecombe, Somerset, and Theresa, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Bobby Richardson, of Blackheath, London.

Mr S.C.J. McCarthy and Miss R.E. Hands

The engagement is announced between Shaun, eldest son of Mrs Margaret Brock, of Andover, Hampshire, and Rachel, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Hands, of Windlesham, Surrey.

Lieutenant D.P. Talbot, RE, and Miss T.J. Moore

The engagement is announced between Darren, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Talbot, of Warrington, Cheshire, and Tiffany, daughter of the Rev and Mrs David Moore, of Ham Common, Surrey.

Marriages

Mr M.R. Daykin and Miss A.H. Rimmer

The marriage took place on Saturday, February 13, 1999, at St Mary's Church, Harrow-on-the-Hill, between Michael Richard Daykin, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Daykin, and Abigail Hall Rimmer, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Rimmer. The Rev James Power officiated.

Mr T.E.J. Ind and Miss E.J. Atterbury Thomas

The marriage took place on Saturday, at St Peter's Church, Knossington, of Mr Thomas Ind, second son of Dr and Mrs John Ind, of Chelsea, to Miss Emma Atterbury Thomas, eldest daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Atterbury Thomas, retd, and Mrs Atterbury Thomas, of Knossington, Leicestershire. Canon Hugh Broad officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Emma O'Kelly and Olivia Smith. Mr James Ind was best man. A reception was held at Burrough House and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr D.C. Reilly and Miss T.N. Snell

The marriage took place at Westminster Register Office, London, on February 13, 1999, of Dominic Reilly and Tania Snell.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

If you promise to pay a stranger's debt, you will regret it. You are better off not getting involved. Proverbs 11.15 (GNB).

BIRTHS

BYRNE - On 3rd February to Tessa (née de la Torre) and Sean, a son, Benedict Miles St John, a brother for Gabrielle Darcey.

GREEN - On February 5th 1999 in Southampton, to Philippa (née King) and Sebastian, a daughter, Sasha Clare.

HANROTT - see Webster.

KING - On February 10th 1999 to Donna (née Birrell) and Adrian, a splendid son, Adam Dudley Macrie Hunter.

PASI - On 9th February in London, to Polly (née Belham) and John, a daughter, Lucy Rebecca.

RAMSAY - On February 11th, 1999, to Gabrielle (née Wedderburn) and Greville, a son, Hugh.

TAYLOR - On 12th February to Sallie (née Ferrier) and Tim, a son Archie, brother to Fergus.

TILLEY - On February 5th, to Lisa and Richard, a daughter, Alexandra Lucy, a sister for Isobel and Tamsin.

WEBSTER - On 1st February 1999, to Catherine (née Hanrott) and Adam, a daughter, Eleanor Mary, a sister for Olivia and Harriet.

MARRIAGES

GRUNBERGER:MATHIAS
Joel Grunberger, son of Mr K S Grunberger and Mrs L Grunberger of London and Somerset and Miss Bunty Mathias, daughter of Mrs M Mathias of London were married on 10th February 1999 in San Miguel, Allende, Mexico.

DEATHS

ALLEN - Richard, husband of the late Eve, father of Rebecca and Alice, died peacefully at home on February 9th 1999. Funeral Service at West Norwood Crematorium on Friday 19th February at 2.30pm, followed by reception at Dulwich College Lower Hall. Donations in lieu of flowers to St Christopher's Hospice and the MND Association c/o James W Constable Funeral Directors, 55 Honor Oak Park, London SE23 1EA. Tel 0181 291 0811.

DEATHS

BATCHELOR - Laura Edith, (née Dodridge), peacefully on 10th February, aged 90. Widow of Jack. Mother of John, Elizabeth and Jeremy, much loved Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Funeral Service at St Katharine's Church, Merstham, on Thursday 18th February at 2.30pm. Flowers or donations, if desired to Age Concern c/o Stoneman Funeral Service, Doran Court, Reigate Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5AZ.

BOYS-STONES - Hubert Peter Lt Cmdr RN (ret'd), aged 67, died peacefully in his sleep at home on 10th February 1999 after a long fight against cancer. Of the many appointments treasured by Peter were those of serving as SCO to the Commander British Forces Caribbean and that of Royal Cypher Officer / Flag Lieutenant on HMY Britannia. He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends. The Funeral Service is to be held at Mortlake Crematorium on Friday 19th February 1999 at 2.00pm. Flowers or if desired, donations to The Marie Curie Cancer Care Foundation may be sent to Frederick W Paine, Undertakers, 468 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5TT.

CLARK - Jane Maralyn, Clinical Psychologist. Died peacefully in Arthur Rank House on Wednesday 10th February 1999. Aged 51 years. Beloved wife of Gregor, and much loved mother of Aidan, Daisy and Madeleine. Funeral Service to be held at Cambridge City Crematorium on Thursday 25th February at 4pm. Flowers may be sent c/o A F Townsend, 18 High Street, Gt Shelford, Cambridge.

CRAVER - on 9th February 1999, peacefully in hospital, Marjorie Doolan, aged 84 years of Lewes, (formerly of New Jersey U.S.A). Funeral Service on Thursday 18th February 1999 at St Michaels Church, Lewes, at 11.15am followed by cremation at Woodvale Crematorium. Family flowers only by request, but donations if desired, to R.S.C.H. I.C.U. c/o Cooper & Son Funeral Service, 42 High Street, Lewes. 01273 475557.

DAVIES - Miriam, Sr Mary Peter CRSS, New Hall, sister of Joseph, Bernard and the late Fr John SJ, died peacefully on 11th February, aged 76. Requiem Mass and burial at New Hall on Monday 22nd February at 11.30am. No flowers, please, but donations to Cancer Research, if desired.

DICKINSON - Ursula Mary Elizabeth, died suddenly at home in Islington, Devon, on Wednesday 10 February 1999. Enquiries to Hugh Mills, Gaye & Co Ltd. Tel 01626 334444.

FORSYTHE - Iain Angus, sadly lost his fight against cancer on 9th February 1999, aged 59. His enormous suffering and pain was so courageously borne. Very beloved and devoted husband of Lynette and a wonderful devoted father to Rupert, Nicola, Sacha and Ben and grandfather to Benedict. Grandson of Charles Fairfax-Murray. Former chairman of Sbulton (GB) Ltd and president of Jacqueline Cochran USA. He will live in our hearts forever. Flowers to Reeves and Pain, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4TE or donations to Sir Michael Sobell House, Churchill Hospital, Headington, Oxford.

HARVEY JONES - Mary on February 10th 1999, widow of Harvey, mother of Patsy. Funeral service in St Oswald's Church, Lower Peover on Friday February 19th at 1.15pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for SSAFA or The Samaritans may be sent to the Funeral Directors. J A Whiston, King Street, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 5DW. 01565 632044.

MACFARLANE - Tragically as the result of an accident at St Andrews on Sunday 7th February, Stewart James, aged 19 years, died on Friday 12th February 1999. Dearly beloved and very precious son of Ian and Anne, much loved brother of Caroline and Shona, brother-in-law of Tim, boyfriend of Katie, dear grandson of Nancy and Helen, nephew and cousin to the family and friend to many. Funeral service at Mortonhall Crematorium Main Chapel, Edinburgh on Wednesday 17th February at 11.00am. Formal attire not required. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Neuroscience Fund, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee.

MOFFETT - Robert Smith. On 11 February 1999, aged 78. Husband of Maggie, father of five and grandfather of thirteen. Funeral at Portchester Crematorium on February 22 at 11.30am. No flowers but donations if desired to the RNLI. Enquiries 01243 372255.

MOWAT - Jane Archibald (née Milne) on Friday February 12th, aged 90. Widow of Duncan Mackay Stormont Mowat, dearest mother of Mary Jane and grandmother of Tom.

PAYNE - Kenneth Philip passed peacefully away on February 9th aged 78 years. Beloved husband of Moira and father of Timothy, Christopher, Karen and Deborah. Funeral service Friday February 19th, 1.20pm at St Paul's Church, Addlestone followed by private family cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired, to Macmillan Cancer Relief or Cancer Research Campaign, c/o Lodge Brothers F/D, 104 Station Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2BQ. 01932 829929.

STUBBS - Marjorie in hospital on 11th February 1999, after a short illness aged 94 years. Much loved aunt and great-aunt and sister of the late Phyllis. Funeral at Putney Vale, London 1.45pm 18th February. No flowers, donations if desired to The Red Cross or Oxfam.

TREADWELL - Reginald Claud, R.A.F.V.R., retired, peacefully on February 1st, in California, aged 95 years. Lovingly remembered by his daughters June, Wendy and Kay, his seven grandchildren, four great grandchildren, nephews and nieces. Any donations to RAF Benevolent Fund.

WILSON - Peacefully, at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, on Wednesday 10 February 1999, after an illness courageously borne, Edgar Burke, aged 85, loved and loving husband of Elaine, father of Rosemary, Penelope, Terence, Caroline and Katie, grandfather of Alison, Morney, Lindsay, Cass, Magnus, Ned, Matthew and Alexander and brother of Tom. Son of the late Charles and Katherine Wilson of Ballybey and Belfast and retired partner in Sir William Halcrow and Partners. Funeral Service at the Lorimer Chapel, Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh on Wednesday 17 February at 1.00pm. All Welcome. Grateful thanks to staff of the RIE Stroke Unit for their skilled and tender care.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

BIRTHDAYS

SAUNDERS - The Rev. [illegible]

WANTED

VIDEO [illegible]

LEGAL NOTICES

[illegible]

LEGAL NOTICES

[illegible]

OBITUARIES

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DENIS HOLMES

Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Holmes, DSO, wartime intelligence officer, died on January 18 aged 85. He was born on September 26, 1913.

As a commander of the secret "V" Force during the Burma campaign, Denis Holmes played an extraordinary — and largely unsung — role in helping to wrest the initiative from the Japanese, after the disastrous defeats of 1942 and early 1943. V Force was not, like Wingate's Chindits, an offensive arm. Its purpose was, rather, to gain intelligence about the movement and strength of enemy troops and place it at the disposal of the British 14th Army under General Slim.

Nevertheless the experience gained during these operations, of living in and off the jungle and of dealing with the various racial goups in Burma, many of whom were ambivalent about the British and frightened of the Japanese, gave confidence to a British Indian Army whose morale was in tatters.

Holmes and his irregulars showed that the control of the jungle could be wrested from the Japanese, and the wisdom and confidence they gained was put at the disposal of the regular formations, who, in turn, gained greater self belief.

Holmes had been born in Burma, at Moulmein, the son of an official in the Indian Civil Service. He was commissioned from Sandhurst into the Indian Army in 1933 and joined the 1st Punjab Regiment in Bombay. For the next few years his life was typical of that of a regimental officer in India, but he saw no action on the frontiers.

At first the outbreak of war brought no increase in the tempo of his life. Seconded to the Assam Rifles — a gendarmerie rather than an infantry force — he missed campaigning with his battalion against the Italians in Abyssinia and the Western Desert. He then had a period eating his heart out in command of an anti-aircraft battery in Central India. And when he was finally ordered to join the 2nd Battalion 1st Punjabis, hard-pressed in Arakan, he found himself not at the front but diverted as liaison officer to another unit.



Holmes as a young officer in India before the war

Paradoxically, the disastrous First Battle of Arakan gave him his opportunity. Wavell, the C-inC, had set store on his Arakan offensive of December 1942, arguing that even a limited form of attack on the Japanese was better than doing nothing. But the result was a shambles. The Japanese inflicted a bloody repulse and morale throughout British and Indian forces in the Burma theatre was severely affected. The Japanese gave the impression of being invincible in the jungle, which they appeared to have made their home.

Still thirsting for action even in these dispiriting circumstances, Holmes was steered towards V Force by an intelligence officer. The unit had had a chequered career. It had been intended by Wavell as a force of armed native guerrillas, but it had not prospered and had almost withered on the vine when Holmes was offered a position in it in 1943. After carrying out a number of reconnaissance patrols, during which he proved his value, adapting as he did to jungle survival and speaking a number of the native languages, he was soon controlling V Force's operations in the western part of Arakan.

Via a network of local scouts, natives of the area, fishermen and peasants (many of whom were, naturally, double agents) he soon vastly increased the flow of valuable intelligence to the 14th Army. At the First Battle of Arakan, December 1942-April 1943, British and Indian forces had fought almost blind to enemy intentions.

By the time of the second Arakan battle and those of Kohima and Imphal early in 1944, the boot was very largely on the other foot with the British able to base their actions on an accurate estimate of Japanese capabilities.

Such a situation owed much not only to the network Holmes established but to his own personal contribution. On numerous occasions he personally led missions disguised as a peasant, shaving off his magnificent Indian Army officer's moustache so that he should have the authentic smoothed-cheeked Burmese look. Once he even succeeded in attending a Japanese commander's briefing which was being held in a village clearing. Back at Army HQ, intelligence officers were at first reluctant to countenance the information he brought to them, since it was in unbelievably minute detail. "Sir, I was there," he riposted to a general who was wearing his patience thin with his repetitious and sceptical cross-questioning.

As time went on V Force under Holmes added raiding to its functions. But these were not like the long range penetrations of the Chindits. They were, rather, precise surgical operations, based on exact intelligence, and designed to take out specific targets: a troublesome gun battery or a potentially dangerous bunker. Holmes, always thirsting for action, greatly relished these. He was awarded the DSO for his leadership in V Force.

With the 14th Army embarking on a general offensive in the summer of 1944 irregular units such as V Force came under more centralised control. The business no longer had quite the zest it had originally held for Holmes and he returned to regular soldiering with 3rd Battalion 1st Punjab Regiment in Italy. He became CO of the battalion later in 1944, eventually bringing it back to India. He retired from the Army on the granting of independence to India in 1947.

A natural linguist, in retirement he took a degree in French and Arabic at London University and had a successful second career with the Kuwait Oil Company. He retired from this in 1967, but a third career as a schoolmaster at the Hawthorns school, Bletchingley, Surrey, awaited him. There, he was an enthusiastic head of sport and a housemaster until his final retirement in 1992.

His wife June, whom he married in 1945, predeceased him. He is survived by their two sons.

DONALD DUNSTAN

Donald Dunstan, AC, Premier of South Australia, 1967-68 and 1970-79, died on February 6, aged 72. He was born on September 21, 1926.

DON DUNSTAN leapt into Australia's popular imagery when he posed on the broad steps of South Australia's Parliament House wearing pink shorts. It was a startling defiance of tradition, and a vivid symbol of his radical approach to leading Australia's most conservative state. Voters soon found life changed far beyond any mere fashion statement, as an original and determined freethinker chivvied South Australia out of its provincial rut.

In a country where State politicians rarely make much impact beyond their own boundaries, Dunstan became a national figure as Australia embraced the international liberating influences of the 1960s and 1970s. He was bitterly attacked by entrenched political, cultural and moral forces, but he retained an impressive equanimity that brought all but diehard opposition round to an eventual respect.

The former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam is widely regarded as the man who led Australia into a liberal age after he took office in 1972, but Dunstan was for many the man who paved the way.

Donald Allan Dunstan was the son of an Australian shipping company manager based in Fiji; his birth in Suva led to whispers of a mixed-race background at a time when political thinking was still completely dominated by White Australia.

From Adelaide's most exclusive private school, St Peter's College, he studied law at Adelaide University, practising at the bar in Fiji in 1949-50 before returning to a similar career in Adelaide.

South Australia and its sleepy capital were then ruled with the aid of rural gerrymandering by Sir Thomas Playford, the Liberal Country League (conservative) Premier whose right-wing values were generally in tune with a generation little concerned with outside influences. But postwar Australia began to stir, and in 1953 Dunstan was elected a Labor member of the State Assembly.



Dunstan in 1972 during his second term as Premier

His inner-city constituency, Norwood, had a concentration of migrants, and Dunstan made it his business to discover their interests, securing invaluable support from ethnic minorities in South Australia. Labor was barely more forward-thinking than the Liberal Country League, but Dunstan became the focal point of a new breed of Labor politician, seeking not just to improve pay and conditions, but demanding several kinds of social change.

When Labor won power in 1965, toppling Playford after nearly 27 years, Dunstan became Attorney-General and Minister for Social Reform and Aboriginal Affairs. Two years later, on the retirement of the Premier, Frank Walsh, he was elected party Leader, thus becoming Premier. Within months he had lost an election, but in 1970 South Australia voted Labor back. He then served as Premier and Treasurer, occasionally taking other portfolios as he saw the need to apply his own brand of reform. He led Labor to four election victories.

A state which had been regarded with amused scorn by its fellows became a pacesetter. Its thrusting young Premier clashed with police over anti-Vietnam demonstrations; brought in self-determination policies and land rights for aborigines; rushed through consumer protection laws; brought down anti-discrimination legislation, and improved social services.

In 1972 South Australia set up a State Film Corporation, whose first production, *Sunday Too Far Away*, became a minor classic. A city which had enjoyed virtually no nightlife became a cultural and entertainment centre, and was reinvigorated by the Adelaide Festival, at which Dunstan used to read poetry. South Australia was the first State to discontinue the prosecution of consenting homosexual acts between adults.

Dunstan had hoped for 20 years to transform his his state, but in February 1979, after only a decade, he called a hospital press conference, in his pyjamas, to announce his resignation on grounds of ill-health. He was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in that year.

After three years he returned to public life as director of tourism for Victoria, and then chairman of that state's Tourist Commission. He also took a string of community appointments, including chairmanship of the Mandela Foundation. He also published a cookbook and set up a restaurant, Don's Table, in Norwood, the suburb which he had done so much to make fashionable.

Dunstan's sexuality and private life were a source of intrusive fascination. His mood was often camp, and the famous pink shorts were taken by many as an arrogant affirmation of his sexual inclinations.

He refused to talk about his personal life, although he once declared: "I am not the gay guru of Australia." He married twice: first in 1949 to Gretel Ellis, this marriage being dissolved, and then in 1976 to Adele Koh, who died only two years later.

Don Dunstan learnt in 1992 that he was suffering from throat cancer.

He is survived by two sons and a daughter from his first marriage.

PROFESSOR ALDO VAN EYCK

Professor Aldo van Eyck, architect and teacher, died on January 14 aged 80. He was born on March 16, 1918.

THE annual Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects is the most coveted international award for merit, whether for great buildings, interiors or furniture design, writings or theory. It has been won by such illustrious architects as Le Corbusier, Frank Lloyd Wright, Powell and Moya, Berthold Lubetkin and, last year, the Brazilian Oscar Niemeyer; and by eminent historians including Sir John Summerson and Lewis Mumford. Van Eyck received it for writing and teaching as much as for architecture.

Aldo van Eyck was born in Dreibergen, Holland, the son of a poet, Professor P. N. van Eyck, and moved with his family to London when he was two. He attended the King Alfred School in Hampstead from 1924 to 1932, and the Sidcot Quaker School in Somerset until 1935, when his father took a literary chair in Leiden.

He went to the Building School in The Hague, and then, from 1939 to 1943, studied at the Eidegenössische Technische Hochschule in Zurich, remaining in Switzerland until the war was over. Back in Amsterdam in 1945, he was employed by the Public Works Department until 1950, and in 1952 he opened his own offices, practising both there and in The Hague.

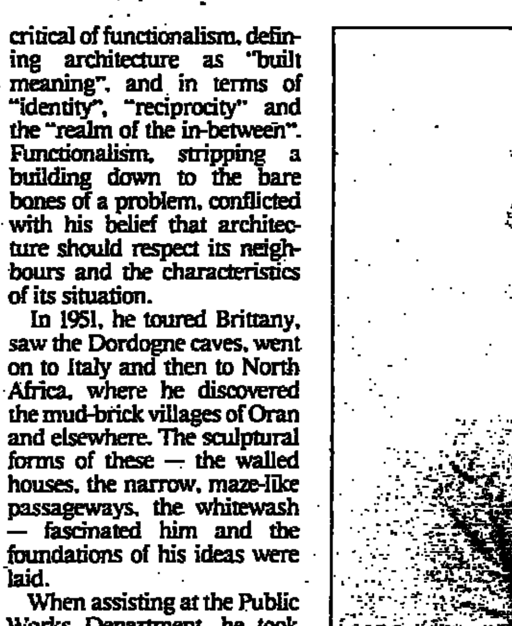
From early on he was critical of functionalism, defining architecture as "built meaning", and in terms of "identity", "reciprocity" and the "realm of the in-between". Functionalism, stripping a building down to the bare bones of a problem, conflicted with his belief that architecture should respect its neighbours and the characteristics of its situation.

In 1951, he toured Brittany, saw the Dordogne caves, went on to Italy and then to North Africa, where he discovered the mud-brick villages of Oran and elsewhere. The sculptural forms of these — the walled houses, the narrow, maze-like passageways, the whitewash — fascinated him and the foundations of his ideas were laid.

When assisting at the Public Works Department, he took commissions of his own on the side (a structure in Zurich in 1946, the conversion for the Heldring and Pierson Bank at The Hague in 1949), as well as designing, between 1947 and 1974, some 700 playgrounds.

His first job of real architectural importance came in 1954: 64 houses for the elderly in Amsterdam, designed in partnership with Jan, the son of Gerrit Rietveld. Three schools at Nagele in Holland followed, and in 1957 he was commissioned to build an orphanage for Amsterdam. It was with this, completed in 1960, that van Eyck made an international name. Many regard it as his finest work.

It is here that the spirit of the African settlements appears in what might be seen as a landscape of roof vaults. Flat roofs, he said, were boring, and he likened his roofs at the orphanage to those of Le Corbusier's Weekend House and the Jaoul Houses. Yet they were not so much vaults as a multitude of little domes with a circular lens at the apex, and it was these, framing a sequence of courtyards, that introduced coherence and order to a rambling conception.





Van Eyck: influential as both teacher and architect

Van Eyck was back on his travels in 1960 and 1961, visiting the French Sudan, noting the Dogon culture and beautiful craftsmanship, and visiting New Mexico when teaching at Washington University, St Louis. By the time he came to design housing at Lima in Peru, ideas arising from these experiences showed clearly in the architecture, an elongated series of hexagons establishing the order of the settlement, the garden walls and lanes.

He was also teaching a great deal. In Amsterdam, in Delft, in Zurich and all over America, he and his wife Hannie were involved with ambitious undertakings, culminating in the Hubertus Home (1980) for single parents and their children, and — for the European Space Research and Technology Centre near Noordwijk— a highly complex restaurant, library and conference building backed by a big group of two, three and four-storey offices.

He had an enormous following among students in many parts of the world. He was a noted lecturer and writings poured from him, yet he never forgot his finds in the Dogon and Oran: when he restored and rebuilt his own house, a dilapidated 18th-century building he said, "That village in Africa or wherever is here . . . I see it and experience it . . ."

He received many honours internationally and the RIBA Gold Medal in 1990. He is survived by his wife, his son and a daughter.

SIR ARTHUR HAWKINS

Sir Arthur Hawkins, former chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, died on January 13 aged 85. He was born on June 10, 1913.

ARTHUR HAWKINS was instrumental in moving the postwar electricity industry from a state of crisis management to proper commercial planning with a long-term strategy. For a good deal of his career much had to be done by any feasible means to maintain supply, but by the time he retired the Central Electricity Generating Board was in a position to make commercial choices. It had become one of the best performing public corporations and was widely held to serve the country well according to its governing statutes.

The son of a Baptist Minister, Arthur Ernest Hawkins was educated at the grammar school in Great Yarmouth and Norwich Technical College, before taking an external degree in electrical engineering from London University. Although he never lost touch with the workers in power stations and transmission units, he always remembered a headmaster exhorting him "not to finish up in overalls".

As a young engineer he soon recognised the importance of grid system interconnections. He progressed to the Bankside Control Centre of the Central Electricity Board, and later to its headquarters, and by 27 he was in charge of the design and construction of an emergency grid co-ordination centre, in the disused lift and ventilation shafts of the old Post Office Underground Station. Although he had volunteered for the RNVR, this was was judged a more important contribution to the war effort than anything he could have done in the Navy. It was completed and in 11 months, fully equipped, and was bomb and flood proof.



After the war Hawkins worked for the South Eastern Electricity Board (SEEBoard) as a manager in Croydon, before being appointed system planning engineer in 1957 to oversee the upgrading of the grid to 275kV.

With demand for electricity more than doubling each decade at this period, he made a great contribution to solving the intellectual problems of upgrading while maintaining supplies. He became chief operations engineer of the Central Electricity Generating Board in 1959. He was noted for his tenacity in dealing with the many problems posed by the malfunctioning of 500mW generating units, which were at the leading edge of technology, but highly temperamental.

Hawkins was appointed to the board of the CEGB in 1970, and was soon to be faced by the first miners' strike, in which for the first time electricity supply was used as a means of political blackmail.

Two years later, now as chairman, he led the operational response to another strike, at the time of the three-day week. These events taught many lessons for the future, and Hawkins instigated new strategies in the stocking of fuel and other essential power station supplies. Although it came nearly a decade after his retirement, the resilience of the industry to the miners' strike of 1985 was in no small measure due to this foresight. In his consistent view, it was the straightforward, apolitical duty of the board to supply its consumers.

With the then very powerful trade unions, he was a tough but fair and realistic negotiator, who always kept his side of a bargain. He achieved a reduction in staffing levels of some 30,000 without any stoppages, which was crucial in an industry of such national importance.

Despite his demanding management style, Hawkins cared personally about the welfare of staff. He was president of the Electrical and Electronic Industries Benevolent Association in 1976, the year he was knighted.

His wife Judith survives him, with their son and two daughters.

Latest wills

John Alfred **Bearder**, solicitor, of Holywell Green, Halifax, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £3,141,078 net.
He left £1,000 each to Savile Close Home for the Elderly, Joseph Crossley Almshouses, Cancer Laryngectomy Trust, Calderdale Council of Voluntary Service, Calderdale HIV AIDS Link, Calderdale Volunteer Bureau, British Legion Halifax Branch, Halifax Rotary Club, Halifax Calder Rotary Club, the Friends of Halifax Parish Church, St Andrews Church Stainland, Yorkshire Cancer Research Campaign, Overgate Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Relief; £500 to the Gardeners Benevolent Society.

Mary Emily **Atkin**, of Kings Heath, Birmingham, left estate valued at £2,104,443 net.
She left £1,000 each to RSPCA, PDSA, National Anti-Vivisection Society, Lord Dowding Fund for Humane Research and Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society; £500 to the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind and to the Cats Protection League.

Ernest Charles Frost **Biggins**, of London NW4, left estate valued at £2,440,755 net.

Marjorie Yewdall **Gaunt**, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £2,286,627. She left £50,000 to the British Heart Foundation.

Thomas George Peter **Goddard**, of Dorchester, Dorset, left estate valued at £2,427,901 net.

William Charles **Bagshaw**, of Kings Newnham, Rugby, Warwickshire, left estate valued at £1,134,769 net.

Edmund Williams **Edwards**, of Bromyard, Hereford, left estate valued at £1,680,388 net.

Thomas Roy **Farrimond**, medical practitioner, of Isleworth, Middlesex, left estate valued at £1,031,928 net.

Gwendoline Doris **Gibbon**, of Clifton, Bristol, left estate valued at £1,025,266 net.
She left £8,000 to St James's Church, Tytherington; £5,000 each to Donkey Sanctuary, League of Friends of Thornbury Hospital and St Peter's Hospice, Bristol; £3,000 each to Help the Aged, NSPCC, RSPCA, YMCA, Council for the Protection of Rural England, and Guide Dogs for the Blind; £2,000 to RSPB.

Benjamin **Glasser**, of London N2, left estate valued at £1,455,242 net.

Marigold Evelyn **Graham**, of Ruthin, Denbighshire, left estate valued at £1,180,385 net.

Patricia Donaldson **Lambe**, of West Wittering, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,661,341 net.
She left £10,000 each to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, British Heart Foundation, RNIB, RNID, Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research, MS Society, Save the Children Fund and John Groome's Association for Disabled People.

Margaret Rutherford **Lumsden**, retired college lecturer and psychiatric social worker, of Wooler, Northumberland, left estate valued at £1,044,849 net.

Alfred John **Morris**, solicitor, of Purley, Croydon, left estate valued at £1,108,360 net.

Olwen Llwyd **Parry**, of Hussingtree, Worcestershire, left estate valued at £957,722 net.

Sybil **Pearce**, of London W4, left estate valued at £1,210,576 net.

Thomas John **Persey**, retired farmer, of Cullompton, Devon, left estate valued at £1,307,932 net.

Mary Eileen **Roberts**, of Crowton, Northwich, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,098,353 net.

Richard Stanley Howard **Shepard**, of Kimpton, Andover, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,890,588 net.

Nancy Violet **Smyth**, of Hailsham, East Sussex, left estate valued at £642,120 net.

Edward Bryon **Swaffield**, of Portesham, Weymouth, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,562,534 net.

Yolande Kathleen Gwendolen **Warner**, of London W3, left estate valued at £1,189,269 net.

Charles Michael **Wilson**, of Darlington, Co Durham, left estate valued at £1,037,489 net.
He left £10,000 to St James The Great Church, Darlington.

ON THIS DAY

February 15, 1965

Rolf Hochhuth's play The Representative, *which was about Pope Pius XII's attitude towards the Nazis, caused controversy whenever there were plans to perform it.*

POLICE BESIEGE ACTORS IN ROME

ROME, Feb.14

A sorry little rain-swept siege today marked the spot where police last night broke up the dress rehearsal of what was intended to be Rome's first performance of Herr Rolf Hochhuth's controversial play *The Representative*. The players themselves spent the night inside the basement of the deconsecrated church which they have adapted as a theatre for private performances, with the police standing ready to prevent them from re-entering if they leave.

The actors have announced their intention of putting on a special performance tomorrow for invited members of Parliament who would be able theoretically to make use of their immunity to witness the forbidden show.

It has been known for some time that a group of young actors led by Signor Gian Maria Volonté, who has been making a mark in particular for his appearances on television, was intending to perform this play about Pope Pius XII's attitude towards the Nazis.

Inevitably there would have been protests here, but the manner in which the efforts of the company were brought to nothing can hardly have satisfied much more than extremist opinion. In fact, demands from the right wing to stop the threatened performance of the play by any means seem to have been rather exactly met.

The play has been printed in Italy by the left-wing publishing firm of Feltrinelli which gave the rights for public performance without charge to Signor Volonté's company. Signor Volonté was permitted by the police this morning to receive six journalists. He said that application had been made two months ago for licence to give public performances in the newly fitted theatre. After a month they had had no reply and were apparently given to understand that none would be forthcoming.

They then decided to establish themselves as a private cultural club and two weeks ago they provided official notification to this effect.

Last night the company had invited about 50 people, including critics and personal friends, to the dress rehearsal. About 30 people managed to reach their seats before the police came and refused to allow the rest of the audience to enter. Signor Volonté nevertheless began the dress rehearsal but it was interrupted by the arrival of uniformed and plainclothed police inside the theatre who ordered the suspension of the performance.

Members of the audience were removed, some of them forcibly. Photographs appeared in the press this morning of one policeman looking rather the worse for his encounter with the critics. Several people were charged. There was some derisive singing and shouts of "liberty".

Police said today that their action was taken under articles in the Code of Public Security. It has been widely taken for granted that regard for the Concordat with the Vatican was in the official mind because this agreement specifically calls on the Italian authorities to protect the sacred character of Rome and defend the Popes from attack.

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY FEBRUARY 15 1999

NEWS

Hostels for teenage mothers

■ A national network of special hostels to house teenage mothers, with a home in most towns, is being planned by the Government. Grandparents might also be paid to look after the illegitimate children.

Ministers believe that hostel life would give single mothers companionship and prevent them leading isolated lives in a council flat or bed-and-breakfast accommodation ......Page 1

Ahern accused over peace talks

■ Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister was last night accused of jeopardising the Northern Ireland peace process after suggesting that Sinn Fein should be barred from sitting in Ulster's new government until the IRA began to decommission its weapons. He publicly sided with Unionists and insisted that the IRA hands over weapons ......Page 1

Murder hunt

A retired teacher and her husband were found dead at their Oxfordshire village home shortly before they were due to attend their weekly church service ......Page 1

Kosovo hopes

Madeline Albright suggested that the ethnic Albanian delegation at the Kosovo peace talks was ready to sign ......Pages 1, 11

Rail delays

Rail passengers face the prospect of longer delays or fewer trains as the railway industry wrestles with a growing crisis of congestion ......Page 2

German accusation

A leading German government minister yesterday accused the British press of portraying Germany as a nation in which "a new fascist government might come to power and march all over Europe again" ......Page 3

Angry archbishop

The Archbishop of Canterbury angrily dismissed a report that he was "emotionally and physically exhausted"e ......Page 4

Athletic starvation

Some leading male international runners are starving themselves and risking impotence in the pursuit of excellence, to the alarm of the authorities that run British sport ......Page 5

Tourist pollution

Tourists, fishermen, shipping and flytippers are to blame for a worrying increase in beach pollution around Britain, the Beachwatch survey has found ......Page 6

Historic decision

The British Tourist Authority is to promote visits to Britain in 2000 with a brochure that celebrates two millennia of history rather than "Cool Britannia" ......Page 8

Carnival affair

A judge recently ruled — to the approval of Rhinelanders — that a husband could not sue his wife for divorce merely because she has been made pregnant by a random lover during carnival. These are the "mad days" in Catholic Germany ......Page 9

Russian hunger

The Red Cross will next month begin flying more than $9 million (£5.5 million) of emergency aid to the remotest parts of Russia's Arctic and Far East, where it says 80,000 people are facing starvation ......Page 10

Giving a damn

The sweep of the staircase outside, and the Dixie elegance of the furnishing within, only serve to emphasise that George W. Bush Jr is the Republicans' Rhett Butler — the man who operates behind enemy lines while living down a raffish past ......Page 12

The writing on the wall

Authorities in Rome, Milan and other Italian cities reacted with dismay to a Vatican suggestion that graffiti could be justified as a *cri de coeur* by "isolated and lonely souls" lost in a "metropolitan wasteland". Italian towns are engaged in multi-million-pound projects to clean their streets and buildings for the millennium celebrations ......Page 10

THOMAS COEX/AFP



The French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine flanked by Robin Cook and Madeleine Albright at the Kosovo talks yesterday. Pages 1, 11

Steel row: British Steel threatens to spark a dispute between Britain and Germany by launching a new bid for Salzgitter, just one year after its original bid was blocked by Gerhard Schroder ......Page 44

Recession looms: Britain is probably already in recession and there is little Gordon Brown can do in the Budget to ease the slump, a think-tank warns today ......Page 44

Ordnance date: Unions will meet managers of Royal Ordnance today to discuss the financial crisis that threatens to close the business within six months ......Page 44.

Windows: Today has been dubbed Refund Day by computer users who resent having to pay for unwanted Microsoft software that is built in to computers ......Page 44

Beastly behaviour: Before she became an officer with the RSPCA, Jo Needs thought that Britain was a nation of animal lovers. How wrong she was ......Page 13

Minding men: Whatever happened to the hunter-gatherers of prehistory, our tough, hairy, spear-wielding male ancestors who could be relied upon to venture out of the cave every rainy Saturday morning and bring home the bison? ......Page 13

Beauty barons: The cosmetics business was once dominated by French and American brands. That has changed as four British entrepreneurs have developed their own individual ranges ......Pages 14, 15

British success: Last year the British director Declan Donnellan delighted the French with his new staging of Corneille's classic, *Le Cid*. Now he brings his triumph to London ......Page 16

Jazz foray: Nigel Kennedy shares the musical limelight with the Jamaican-born singer and guitarist Caleb Clarke in a jazz gig at Ronnie Scott's in Birmingham ......Page 16

Wagnerian triumph: English National Opera unveils its new staging of Wagner's *Parsifal*, a production which leaves Rodney Milnes profoundly stirred ......Page 17

Anniversary bash: The London Mozart Players celebrated their fiftieth anniversary with a concert at the Festival Hall that did not quite rise to the occasion ......Page 17

Football: Kevin Keegan says he will discuss the England manager's position with the Football Association should they issue an invitation to him ......Page 23

FA Cup: Manchester United and Chelsea will meet at Old Trafford in the outstanding tie of the quarter-finals ......Page 23

Arsenal dispute: Controversy is raging over Satuyrday's FA Cup-tie between Arsenal and Sheffield United and which will now be replayed, probably on February 23. The for and against lobby express their views ......Page 25

Golf: Bright young English player David Howell scored a four-stroke victory in the Desert Classic in Dubai ......Page 29

Motor racing: The good, bad and ugly sides of Michael Schumacher, the former world drivers' champion ......Page 33

Rugby league: Leeds Rhinos defeated Wigan Warriors in the Silk Cup Challenge Cup despite having a man sent off ......Page 32

Rugby union: Austin Healey, the Leicester and England back, could be hot water for stamping. Page 31

5, 23, 26, 27, 47, 49. Bonus: 48

One ticket won £8,198,811 for six numbers; 9 won £280,301 each for five and the bonus; 730 won £2,159 for five; 42,295 won £82 for four; and 892,155 won £10 for three.

Preview: Drama in a Cotswolds town (ITV, 9pm). **Review:** *Days Like These* is set in Luton but feels like Nowhereville ......Pages 42,43

Balkan brinkmanship

Prospects for success are poor. The Serbs are still not reconciled to any meaningful autonomy; the Albanians are determined to fight for immediate independence ......Page 19

I have a theme

The Conservative Leader may not have dominated television screens stateside, but he did find himself on the same wavelength as some of the continent's most successful centre-right politicians ......Page 19

Sporting chance

The convention that, after injury, the ball should be returned to the fouled player's goalkeeper is long held and conciliatory. The FA was right to support it ......Page 19

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I do not expect Clinton to spend his last two years in the White House quietly improving his reputation in history. On the contrary ......Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

The theory of ministerial accountability has become very slippery. There was never an idyllic period when politicians were men of honour ......Page 18

ANNA BLUNDY

Drinking Russians are deeply suspicious of teetotallers and often see it as a sign that the sober person holds them in contempt ......Page 18

Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Holmes; Donald Dunstan, South Australian premier; **Professor Aldo van Eyck**, architect; **Sir Arthur Hawkins**, CEGB ......Page 21

Kosovo; Beloff letter; QCs; Montgomery ......Page 19

Most young Italians know next to nothing about Leonardo da Vinci and have only heard of Giotto because a brand of Italian crayons bears his name. As Robert Browning observed, ignorance is not innocence, it is a sin — *Il Messaggero*

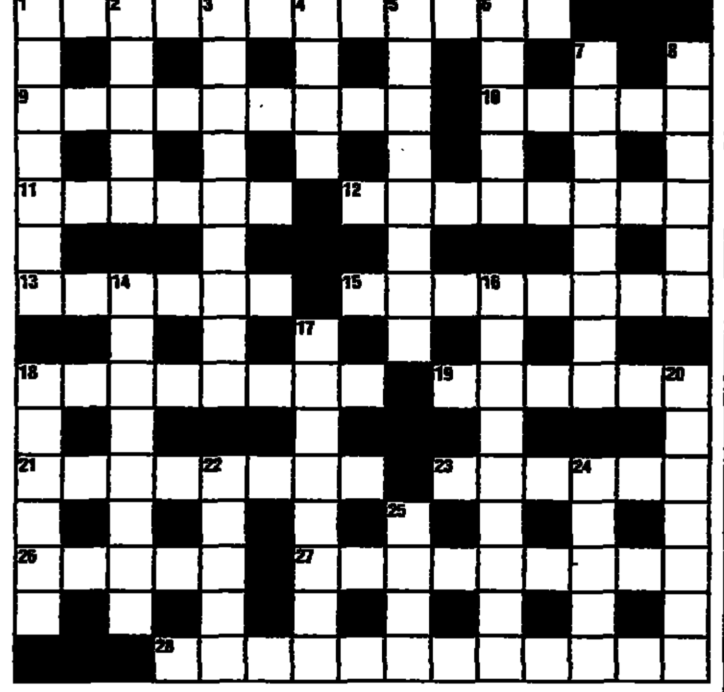
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS
Lifting the lid on *The Thin Red Line*, Terrence Malick's first film for two decades

■ LAW
What would the dream law practice for the millennium look like?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,027



ACROSS

1 A crank is given a turn to perform his music (5-7).
9 Open vessels I see in river (9).
10 Burn spruce (5).
11 Element that's protecting Norse god (6).
12 Soldier escorting girlfriend to dance (8).
13 Language spoken differently in parts of the British Isles (6).
15 Hook is remembered thus, having one at the start (8).
18 Number required to secure carrier at sea (5-3).
19 In South Carolina, nice resort with picturesque views (6).
21 Departure point son used in express journey (8).
23 Jack returns in time to produce list of amendments (6).
26 New field of study, initially, for the cloth (5).
27 Manoeuvred a girl into making clothes (9).
28 How to vent anger when one has a shock? (4,4,4).

DOWN

1 Opportunity for preliminary statement in court (7).
2 Admitted by Grand Duke, primate stared in wonder (5).
3 One leaves tiny note in revised cipher (9).
4 Bankruptcy resulting when bear loses his head (4).
5 Sewing equipment seamstresses initially found superfluous (8).
6 Records once bringing high honour to sporting venue (5).
7 Capital and money kept outside a state (8).
8 Struggled to get supper finally in cooker (6).
14 Install king, then possibly queen the same (8).
16 Trendy scoundrel promises to repay without interest (9).
17 Ride across island to get container (8).
18 Departs ahead of time? Very much (6).
20 Person demanding payment for antique dish (7).
22 Stretched tight, it may be perfect (5).
24 Inner personality concealed by woman I married (5).
25 Sounds like poor deportment (4).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 21,026 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 44

Sun rises: 7.15 am — Sun sets: 5.14 pm

Moon sets: 4.26 pm — Moon rises: 6.50 am

New moon tomorrow

London 5.14 pm to 7.13 am
Bristol 5.25 pm to 7.23 am
Edinburgh 5.16 pm to 7.37 am
Manchester 5.18 pm to 7.27 am
Penzance 5.40 pm to 7.32 am

□ **General:** S and E England dry with sunny spells after local fog and frost clears. W Eng, Wales, S and E Scotland, and N Ireland mostly dry with sunny intervals, the wind freshening. N and W Scotland cloudy, windy with outbreaks of rain, heavy this afternoon. Tonight Scotland windy and becoming colder with heavy snow in far north.

□ **London, SE, Cent S, E Eng, E Anglia, E Midlands:** local fog and ground frost will lift; then dry, patchy cloud, sunny spells. Light NW wind, turning SW. Max 9C (48F).

□ **W Midlds, Ch'nl Is, SW Eng, S Wales:** mainly dry; some cloud, bright/sunny spells. Light NW wind, turning SW. Max 10C (50F).

□ **N Wales, NW, Cent N, NE England, Lakes, IoM:** cloudy, a few sunny spells. Gusty SW wind will pick up. Max 9C (48F).

□ **Brdrs, E'burgh & D'dee, A'deen, SW Scotlnd, G'gow:** cloudy, sunny spells; rain later. Fresh/strong SW wind. Max 9C (48F).

□ **Cent Highlds, Mry Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll:** outbreaks of rain turning heavier. Strong/gale SW wind. Max 10C (50F).

□ **Orkney, Shetland:** rain, heavy at times. Clearer, colder later. Strong/gale SW wind. Max 8C (46F).

□ **N Ireld:** mostly dry; sunny spells, esp in E. Strengthening SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

□ **Rep of Ireland:** rain in north spreading S. Mod/fresh W wind. Max 11C (52F)

□ **Outlook:** Tues mainly bright in S; cold, windy in N, wintry showers, drifting snow in N Scotland. Wed rainy; snow in NE Scotlnd.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.1	0.01	8	46	c
Anglesey	-	0.11	9	48	r
Aspatria	-	0.12	9	48	r
Aviemore	2.0	0.12	8	46	sh
Belfast	0.9	0.04	9	48	r
Birmingham	-	0.04	7	45	r
Bognor R	2.0	0.01	7	45	r
Bournemth	-	0.09	9	48	r
Bristol	-	0.01	9	48	c
Buxton	0.1	0.11	7	45	d
Cardiff	-	0.02	9	48	d
Clacton	1.4	0.01	4	39	b
Cleethorpes	-	0.05	7	45	r
Colwyn Bay	-	0.07	10	50	r
Cromer	-	0.01	5	41	d
Eastbourne	2.7	0.03	7	45	c
Edinburgh	0.9	0.03	9	48	c
Eskdalemuir	0.1	0.18	7	45	d
Exmouth	-	-	10	50	c
Fishguard	-	0.09	8	46	r
Folkestone	3.1	0.03	6	43	r
Glasgow	1.0	0.16	9	48	r
Guernsey	0.1	0.01	9	48	c
Hastings	2.9	0.03	7	45	r
Hayling I.	1.6	0.02	7	45	r
Herne Bay	2.4	0.03	6	43	r
Hove	1.3	0.01	7	45	b
Hunstanton	-	0.10	5	41	r
Isle of Man	-	0.10	10	50	d
Isle of Wight	X	0.01	7	45	r
Jersey	4.4	0.01	7	45	s
Kinloss	2.1	0.03	9	48	b
Leeds	-	0.01	9	48	r
Lerwick	4.8	0.31	6	43	h
Leuchars	1.4	0.01	9	48	b
Littlehampton	0.1	0.01	7	45	sh
London	1.2	0.03	7	45	r
Lowestoft	-	0.01	4	39	d
Manchester	-	0.22	8	46	d
Margate	3.0	0.04	6	43	r
Morecambe	-	0.17	7	45	r
Newcastle	0.3	0.01	9	48	c
Newquay	-	0.02	10	50	r
Norwich	-	0.01	4	39	r
Oxford	0.1	0.02	8	46	r
Penzance	0.2	0.01	11	52	c
Prestatyn	-	0.14	9	48	r
Ross on Wye	-	0.01	9	48	c
Saunton Sands	-	-	9	48	c
Scarborough	-	0.04	8	46	du
Shrewsbury	-	0.07	9	48	r
Southend	2.0	-	5	41	b
Southport	X	0.10	X	X	d
Stornoway	1.3	0.43	8	46	sh
Swanage	0.8	0.04	9	48	r
Teignmouth	-	0.01	11	52	c
Tenby	-	0.05	10	50	d
Tiree	3.9	0.33	9	48	r
Torquay	0.1	-	11	52	c
Weymouth	0.6	0.01	9	48	d

Yesterday: highest day max: Penzance, Cornwall, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Hemsby, Norfolk, 3C (37F). highest rainfall: Lusta, Isle of Skye, 0.66in; most sun: Lerwick, Shetland, 4.8hr

	C	F	
Ajaccio	8	46	f
Akrotiri	20	68	s
Alex'dria	23	73	s
Algiers	8	46	r
Amst'dm	1	34	s
Athens	13	55	s
Bahrain	22	72	s
Bangkok	30	86	c
Barbados	28	82	f
Barcelona	10	50	s
Beijing	6	43	s
Beirut	19	66	s
Belgrade	-3	27	sn
Berlin	-2	28	f
Bermuda	20	68	f
Biarritz	6	43	s
Bordeaux	5	41	s
Brussels	-2	28	s
Budapest	-2	28	c
B Aires	21	70	c
Cairo	22	72	s
Cape Tn	23	73	s
Chicago	-2	28	s
Chrchurch	X	X	X
Cologne	0	32	s
C'phagn	0	32	s
Corfu	6	43	r
Dublin	8	46	d
Dubrovnik	7	45	s
Faro	15	59	s
Florence	2	36	f
Frankfurt	-2	28	s
Funchal	17	63	c
Geneva	-2	28	s
Gibraltar	15	59	s
Helsinki	-2	28	c
Hong K	22	72	s
Innsbruck	-6	21	f
Istanbul	10	50	f
Jeddah	30	86	f
Jo'burg	25	77	f
L Palmas	19	66	f
Le Tquet	4	39	s
Lisbon	12	54	f
Locarno	6	43	s
L Angeles	17	63	s
Luxembg	0	32	s
Luxor	25	77	s
Madrid	9	48	f
Majorca	6	43	f
Malaga	16	61	s
Malta	7	45	c
Melbourne	X	X	X
Mexico C	11	52	f
Miami	26	79	s
Milan	6	43	s
Montreal	6	43	s
Moscow	-7	19	sn
Munich	-7	19	s
Nairobi	28	82	f
Naples	7	45	s
N Delhi	22	72	s
N York	12	54	f
Nice	9	48	s
Oslo	-9	16	s
Paris	2	36	s
Perth	X	X	X
Prague	-4	25	s
Reykjavik	3	37	c
Rhodes	16	61	f
Rio de J	24	75	f
Riyadh	25	77	f
Rome	6	43	s
Salzburg	-7	19	c
S Frisco	7	45	f
Santiago	23	73	s
S Paulo	X		
Seoul	-2	28	s
Singapore	27	81	f
Stockholm	-1	30	f
Strasb'rg	-2	28	s
Sydney	24	75	f
Tangier	14	57	s
Tel Aviv	19	66	f
Tenerife	19	66	f
Tokyo	9	48	s
Toronto	0	32	s
Tunis	9	48	c
Valencia	13	55	s
Vanc'ver	6	43	f
Venice	4	39	s
Vienna	-3	27	c
Warsaw	-3	27	s
Wash'ton	23	73	s
Wel'ngton	19	66	x
Zurich	-7	19	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X — not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: high O will drift northwest and intensify. Low O will drift north and lose its identity as low V moves quickly east and deepens



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	0:45	4.0	12:54	4.2
Avonmouth	6:33	12.7	18:55	12.8
Belfast	10:30	3.3	22:51	3.3
Cardiff	6:19	11.8	18:41	11.8
Devonport	5:10	5.2	17:34	5.1
Dover	10:24	6.2	22:47	6.4
Dublin	11:00	3.9	23:28	3.8
Falmouth	4:41	5.0	17:05	4.9
Greenock	-	-	12:12	3.3
Harwich	11:26	3.7	23:43	3.8
Holyhead	9:48	5.4	22:12	5.3
Hull (Albert D)	5:47	8.0	17:57	8.4
Ilfracombe	5:24	8.7	17:45	8.7
King's Lynn	5:52	6.0	17:58	6.8
Leith	2:02	5.1	14:18	5.3
Liverpool	10:40	9.1	23:02	9.0
London Bridge	1:01	6.7	13:28	6.8
Lowestoft	9:06	2.3	21:06	2.6
Margate	11:39	4.5	23:51	4.7
Milford Haven	5:39	6.5	17:58	6.5
Newquay	4:31	6.5	16:50	6.6
Oban	5:23	3.8	17:41	3.7
Penzance	4:00	5.2	16:19	5.2
Portland	6:24	1.8	18:53	1.8
Portsmouth	10:45	4.4	23:13	4.5
Shoreham	10:35	5.9	23:05	6.0
Southampton	10:22	4.3	22:54	4.4
Swansea	5:46	11.8	18:07	11.8
Tees	3:10	9.5	15:22	9.8
Walton-On-Naze	11:15	4.0	23:31	4.0

All times GMT. Heights in metres.



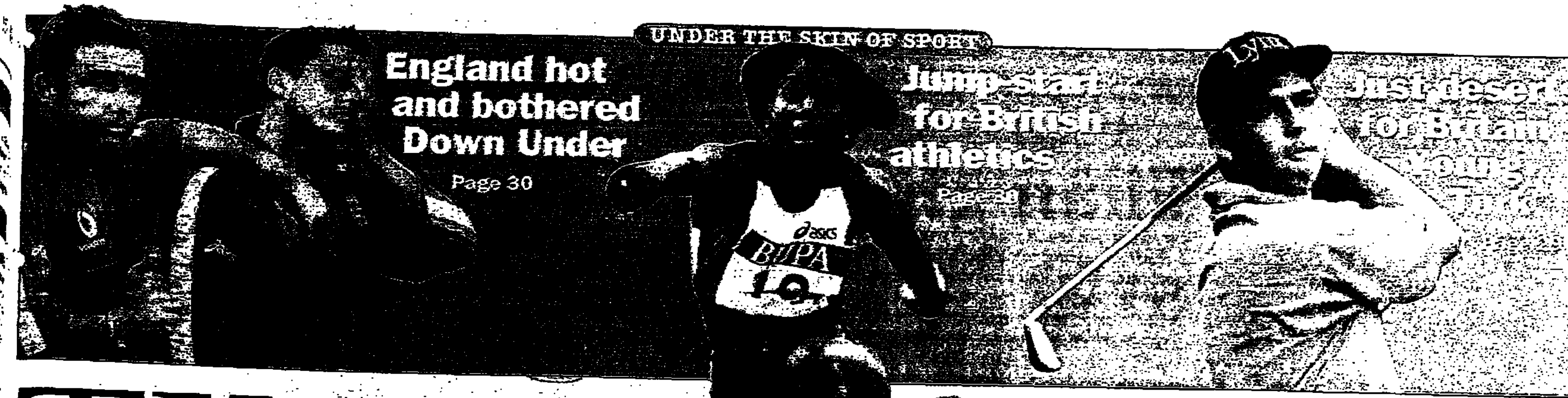
Total number of lives saved:	132,646
Total number of lifeboat launches:	171,013
Cost to RNLI per day in 1999:	£222,000
Cost to taxpayer:	£0
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 15 1999

FULHAM MANAGER WAITS FOR THE CALL TO ARMS



All-embracing triumph: Irwin, right, and Yorke lead the congratulations after Cole, left, had scored the only goal of Manchester United's FA Cup fifth-round tie against Fulham. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Keegan takes England bait



MANCHESTER UNITED 1
FULHAM 0

by Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

THE passion may have been lacking in the FA Cup-tie between his Fulham underdogs and Manchester United yesterday, but Kevin Keegan more than made up for it afterwards. Keegan, all emotion and intensity, ended a week of denials when he conceded for the first time that he would be willing to talk to the Football Association about becoming the next England manager when they contact him today.

It is thought that the FA, keen to do everything above board, may already have spoken to Mohamed Al Fayed, the Fulham chairman, to seek permission to speak to Keegan and thrash out a compromise that will allow him to take charge of the national team for the four remaining international matches of this season and to manage Fulham simultaneously.

The most likely scenario is that Keegan, who watched his side succumb to spirited defeat against United at Old Trafford, will be asked to coach England in the run-up to each match and then hand over control to Howard Wilkinson, in Wilkinson's projected new capacity as director of football, when each game ends and return to Craven Cottage.

The FA has singled out Keegan because it believes that his inspirational qualities could be vital in taking England beyond the challenge of Poland in the crucial European championship qualifying match at Wembley on March 27. The issue of whether to hand him the job permanently would be tackled only after further qualifying matches, against Sweden and Bulgaria, at the beginning of June.

Keegan was at pains to emphasise again his loyalty to Fulham yesterday in the aftermath of their fifth-round defeat to a goal from a deflected shot by Andy Cole. He said that he would not walk out on the club. He did admit, though, that if agreement could be reached between himself, Al Fayed and the FA, then it was possible that he could be persuaded to become the national coach.

"Despite the fact that all the media seem to know something is going to happen," Keegan said, "and all the bookies seem to know something is going to happen, the man who they are talking about is sat here and can honestly look you in the face and can say I have not had one contact with anyone at the FA.

"It's a strange situation because, as I've said all week, I deny it and people don't believe me. I say I want to stay at Fulham and people say: 'He's got to say that.' If I didn't say anything, if I said no comment, you would then say: 'He must want the job.'

"At this moment in time, I haven't had a phone call. Judging by what's happening — mainly through the media, which is surprising — I should be getting one. In one way, it's a very big compliment. It's just the timing of it. I like Fulham Football Club very much. I love Fulham. I have to get like that when I go into something.

"On one side, you have got all the emotion of what happened today. On the other side, you have got a pull that every English fan should have, which is if you want to be a manager and your country comes for you, then maybe you should jump at it and forget everything.

"I am not like that. I never have been. I think now people know I did not walk out on Newcastle. I am not going to walk out on Mr Fayed, or Fulham, or the supporters and these players.

'Steve Bruce insisted that he was not behaving like a spoilt brat with his furious reaction to the Overmars goal'

Calling foul at Highbury, page 25

"If the FA come on and want to talk to me, then I will talk to them, don't worry about that. I can see a picture building up over the last three days which is a strange situation. Somebody, somewhere, has decided not only maybe to approach me and offer me some sort of position, but they have also taken it upon themselves to tell a lot of people about it, except me.

"If I am approached and Mr Fayed gives them permission, of course I will talk to them. I think there are a lot of things then that may or may not happen, depending on what they say. For me to sit here and say: 'What if they offer it this way or that way, what would you say then?' — the answer is let's wait and see if it happens and I will sit in front of you again, as I always have done."

At least Keegan and his Nationwide League second division side have one less commitment after their Cup exit on a dull, dreary Manchester day. Neither side produced the football of which they are capable. United, missing Paul Scholes and Roy Keane through suspension, lacked width and the ploy of playing Ole Gunnar Solskjaer alongside Dwight Yorke and Cole seemed to unbalance them, as it always does.

Fulham were also without Paul Peschisolido and Simon Morgan, but the conquerors of Aston Villa in the previous round were never in danger of being overawed. From the moment early in the game, when Schmeichel inadvertently flattened Berg with a mis-hit goal kick, United seemed unsure of themselves, unable to rediscover the fluency that ran through them so effortlessly in their 8-1 drubbing of Nottingham Forest nine days ago. The combative Nicky Butt was their best player, adding some delicate touches to his more familiar, attritional qualities.

Fulham were never able to make their early superiority tell, though. The difference between them and their FA Carling Premiership opponents was in the finishing. United's first real chance fell to Cole and he promptly put them ahead in the 27th minute when his sidefooted shot bounced off Symons and beyond the grasp of Maik Taylor. A minute later, Fulham were denied the chance to strike back when Gary Neville's brilliantly timed tackle dispossessed Dirk Lehmann as he shaped to shoot.

United, who will face Chelsea at Old Trafford in the tie of the sixth round, could not kill the game off, but Fulham's last chance disappeared in the 68th minute, when Salako shot too close to Schmeichel after Finnan's dipping shot had rebounded to him ten yards out. Taylor saved well from Yorke four minutes from the end, but even if Fulham could not provide a sting in the tail, Keegan obliged instead.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-3): P Schmeichel — G Neville, H Berg, J Stam, D Irwin (sub: J Greening, 46min) — D Beckham, P Neville, N Butt — A Cole (sub: R Johnsen, 87), D Yorke, O G Solskjaer (sub: J Blomqvist, 68).
FULHAM (4-4-2): M Taylor — S Finnan, C Coleman, K Symons, R Brevett — S Hayward, N Smith, W Collins (sub: G Uhlenbeek, 87), J Salako (sub: P Trollope, 73) — D Lehmann (sub: K Betsy, 59), B Hayles.
Referee: J Winter



Feeling the squeeze: Keegan was in playful mood despite defeat

FA CUP QUARTER-FINAL DRAW

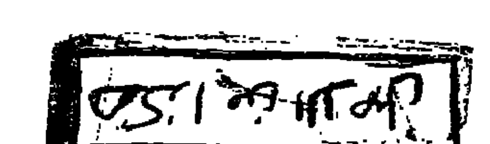
Manchester United v Chelsea

Blackburn Rovers or Newcastle United v Everton

Barnsley v Tottenham Hotspur or Leeds United

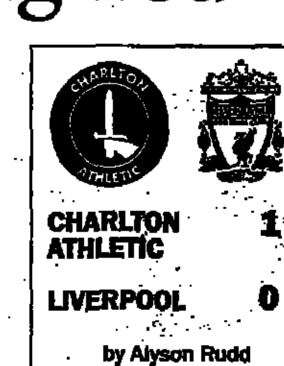
Arsenal or Sheffield United v Derby County or Huddersfield Town

Matches to be played weekend of March 6-7



FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Reed leaves Houllier seeing red



CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1
LIVERPOOL 0
by Alyson Rudd

GERARD HOULLIER and Arsène Wenger sat together at Wembley last Wednesday evening. The emotions generated by split loyalties must have been extreme for the two French managers. Both were affected, it seems, for on Saturday Wenger, the Arsenal manager, displayed a remarkable generosity of spirit regarding his club's FA Cup match against Sheffield United, while Houllier, the Liverpool manager, launched an astonishing verbal attack on Mike Reed, the referee.

As the match at The Valley proceeded torturously toward the 0-0 conclusion it deserved, Martin Pringle, Charlton's Swedish striker, suddenly pulled up clutching his throat and Reed immediately showed Jamie Carragher, the Liverpool defender, a red card.

To say that Houllier was incensed would qualify for the understatement of the season. "He [Reed] wanted Charlton to win — or maybe he wanted Liverpool to lose, that's what I think," Houllier said. The Football Association will ask him to clarify what he meant. Perhaps they will hope there is a language problem at work, but such hopes will be dashed, for Houllier was offered the opportunity to tone down his accusations — but declined the invitation.

Houllier's anger was ignited because, he indicated, the team expected to be victims of a poor decision, Reed having sent off Jason McAteer, then with Liverpool, in controversial circumstances, earlier in the season. "I'm terribly angry. This is not fair. We know referees play a part sometimes, but it's too often him and too much," he said.

Charlton scored from the free kick awarded for the foul on Pringle, Keith Jones powering the ball past David James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, after the visitors' defence had failed to regroup. This, too, was, according to Houllier, Reed's fault: "He penalised us twice. He didn't allow us to reposition ourselves." Carragher said that he had no idea what foul he was supposed to have committed and the contact with Pringle certainly appeared to be accidental.

"We were going for the same ball, arms were flying about, these things happen," Pringle said. "I'm not a cheat, I was caught in the throat and if you are caught in the throat, it can be a bit scary." In something of the manner of an apology, Pringle said he had a large Adam's apple and had been struck there in similarly painful fashion before.

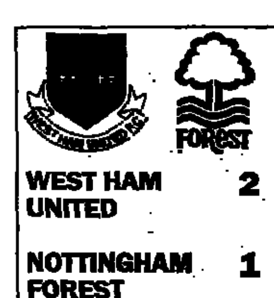
Perhaps it would have been better all round had no Premiership manager sat through the England international against France — a point proved by Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, who missed the game because of a power cut.

He had therefore not witnessed how impotent Redknapp and Ince looked on the night. If he had, he might not have placed such emphasis on containing them and Liverpool might have been given the space to perform better. As it was, the Liverpool midfield was made to look an ineffectual rabble.

The only true class on show came from John Barnes, who made his debut for Charlton as a substitute, who, having achieved their second win inside five days, look capable of staying in the FA Carling Premiership. Having mastered the art of playing well and losing, they are revealing that they have the knack of performing poorly and winning — a much more valuable talent.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (3-5-2): S Royce — D Mills, S Brown, C [illegible] Robinson, [illegible], M K[illegible] Redfearn (sub: J Barnes, [illegible]), C Powell — [illegible] Pringle (sub: M Bright, 88), A Hunt.
LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — J Carragher, D Matteo, S Staunton — V Heggem (sub: S Gerrard, 81), J Redknapp, P Ince, S McManaman, S I Bjornebye (sub: R Song, 73) — M Owen (sub: K Riedle, 81), R Fowler.
Referee: M Reed

Atkinson avoids big question



WEST HAM UNITED 2
NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1
by Peter Robinson

IT WAS not so much what he said as the way that he said it — standing there, shoulders forward, his gaze sharp and hard, challenging anyone to ask him a question, daring them. When he did say something, it was loud, concise, clear and he looked his inquisitor in the eye, unblinking. And you have to say it worked.

The questions were astonishingly bland. "You improved in the second half, that must be encouraging?" "It was better than last week, don't you think?" Of the four that were put to him, each one muttered after a sullen, deferential silence, they were the toughest. Honestly.

The questions that needed to be asked, that were hanging in the air, were left well alone. "How are you going to get out of this one, Ron?" "Is this the worst team you have ever managed?" "What on earth do you think you are doing, trying to save this lot from relegation?" "Is it pride that is driving you? Is it self-belief? Is it ego?" Not one was put to him, not a word. It was faintly humiliating, being crushed so convincingly by the force of one man's personality.

Fortunately, it lasted only a few minutes and then, his task complete, Ron Atkinson announced: "Nothing else?" Right, I might as well go and have a drink then." And he did, presumably, for he marched out, triumphant.

If only the Nottingham Forest players could perform with the same *élan* and ebullience as their manager. They lost on Saturday, are four points adrift at the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership and, if you say that 42 points should be enough to escape relegation, they are 26 points short of their target. With 13 games left to play, it would be an astonishing achievement if they were to stay up, if Atkinson could pull off one of the greatest of great escapes.

All the more so because Forest are not very good. West Ham United scored two goals on Saturday, should have had at least four, yet they were not that impressive either, shorn of confidence after losing their past two home games 4-0.

Lampard missed a sitter from two yards, Di Canio another from ten before Pearce, a defender, showed them how it should be done, volleying in a cross from Berkovic. Lampard tapped in No 2 after being set up by Sinclair. Half-time, a cue for Atkinson to work his magic in the dressing-room.

He did, or almost did. Forest improved, helped by shrewd substitutions and tactical tweaks, but they did not have the quality to convert their belated battling into points. A late consolation by Hjelde, headed in from a free kick by Van Hooijdonk, was not enough.

So Forest went home empty-handed, Atkinson to prepare for television duties on Manchester United v Fulham yesterday. The days when he used to manage United, when players such as Robson, McGrath, Hughes, Whiteside, Strachan, Stapleton and Wilkins were at his beck and call, must seem like a long, long time ago.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-4-1-2): S Hislop — I Pearce, R Ferdinand, N Ruddock — T Sinclair, S Lomas, F Lampard, S Lazaridis (sub: S Minto, 90min) — E Berkovic (sub: J Cole, 78) — P Kitson, P Di Canio.
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): D Beasant — J Harkes (sub: N Quashie, 66), J-O Hjelde, C Palmer, S Stensaas (sub: S Chettle, 79) — S Stone, S Gemmill (sub: H Porfirio, 78), A Johnson, A Rogers — P van Hooijdonk, N Shipperley.
Referee: R Harris

FA Cup: Goalkeeper earns Blackburn a replay with agile display

Filan gives Newcastle rough time



NEWCASTLE UNITED 0
BLACKBURN ROVERS 0
by Kevin McCarra



OWEN HUMPHREYS

Speed, left, of Newcastle, has an aerial tussle with Duff during the goalless FA Cup-tie at St James' Park yesterday

NEWCASTLE United will have to make do with an ordeal instead of a vacation, now that the need for a replay will force the cancellation of a proposed golfing break to Portugal. It is their hopes of cheering progress in the FA Cup that are liable to be bunkered. A performance with some splendid facets was not quite enough to overcome Blackburn Rovers. The visitors were dogged at St James' Park yesterday, but their endeavours also hinted at the talent they will deploy next week.

No matter what the records might say about heights and weights, this was the sort of occasion when, it appeared, there were only two categories of player. Those who were not strapping were chunky. Even the ostensibly slight, such as Stephen Glass, of Newcastle, puffed themselves up and were gnawingly persistent when tackles were demanded. The physical nature of the action was part of the great appeal.

Exertion could be regarded as a symbol of the striving of these clubs to recover the high reputations they once enjoyed. Muscle complemented skill in an engrossing tie in which a victory for Ruud Gullit's side would have been deserved.

Resolute though Blackburn were, it was, principally, John Filan, their goalkeeper, who earned them a the replay at Ewood Park. On this evidence, Tim Flowers, the England international, merits sympathy rather than a rebuke for his transfer request. He must have seen his prospects dwindling further as he stared pensively from the substitutes' bench. Filan, an Australian, turned in a performance of daring athleticism. In all of his leaping interventions, Filan was actually digging himself in as Blackburn's first choice. The spring and sureness of touch, complemented by the trenchancy of Darren Peacock and the other defenders, helped to tighten the visitors' hold on security.

They will be expected to advance to meet Everton in the next round and not only because they next face Newcastle at their own ground. Brian Kidd, the manager, has brought something of the Manchester United focus with him to Ewood Park.

Blackburn, often under pressure before the interval, were never in disarray and even with injuries, suspension and ineligibility whittling down his squad, Kidd still had a flexibility that Gullit, the Newcastle manager, must envy. Nathan Blake and Kevin Davies, purchased for a total of £12 million, were among the substitutes.

Newcastle badly needed to find some variety after their first-half assaults had failed to bring a breakthrough, but there were no convincing candidates to be introduced. They will have to find their comfort in the early phase of their performance, when the dash and width of their play could have secured a victory. Alert and eager, Newcastle could not guess then how weary they would become.

Glass struck a swerving drive against the bar after 15 minutes and, three minutes later, Temuri Ketsbaia won the ball from David Dunn, darted through and delivered a cutback pass to Nolberto Solano, who looked sure to score only for Filan to block at his feet. The goalkeeper was not confounded, either, when he had to react to a deflection from Marlon Broomes that diverted a shot by Gary Speed.

Filan also reached another attempt by Glass and emphasised his domination by clutching the powerful header with which Speed met a corner from Solano in the 45th minute. In all of this, Alan Shearer, the Newcastle and England forward, was once more marginalised, succumbing to the alertness of Peacock and Broomes.

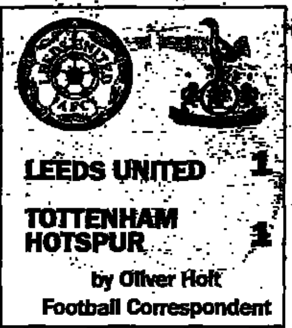
His technique still impresses when he controls the ball and directs an attack, but he has yet to calculate fully how he will flourish now that he no longer possesses raw, decisive power.

Blackburn were able to deliver menacing intimations of the vigour that they will apply at Ewood Park. In the thirteenth minute, Chris Sutton flicked a header to the feet of Ashley Ward and he, with great deliberation, lofted the ball over the head of Shay Given, the goalkeeper — only to see the ball crash against the crossbar. Late in the game, too, Speed was injured while stopping Sutton, in a period when Blackburn looked as if they might outlast Newcastle and claim victory.

Speed, despite being carried off on a stretcher, does not seem to have done serious damage to his knee. Gullit will be relieved. He believes his side can find space in the replay, but he will require all of his established players if it is to be filled with distinction.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Given — W Barton, L Charvet, S Howey, D Domi — N Solano, D Hamann, G Speed (sub: G Brady, 78min), S Glass — A Shearer, T Ketsbaia.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): J Filan — J Kenna, D Peacock, M Broomes, G Croft — K Gillespie, D Dunn (sub: O Kondo, 59), D Marcolin, D Duff (sub: N Blake, 51) — C Sutton, A Ward.
Referee: D Gallagher

O'Leary pleads case for reinforcements



LEEDS UNITED 1
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 1
by Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

ONE beautiful turn and pass from Lee Bowyer aside, each midfield cancelled the other out. Lucas Radebe all but marked David Ginola out of the game, Sol Campbell refused to be flustered by Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Tim Sherwood's goal was answered by Ian Harte's equaliser.

Honours even on the pitch, but the respective managers, David O'Leary and George Graham, took the contest into an extra round off it. Graham, revelling in his return to Elland Road, absorbing the predictable cries of "Judas" with his warmest smile, said, rather smugly, that he had guessed O'Leary's team down to the last man.

O'Leary pointed out that that hardly made his old boss a genius, because the Leeds injury situation was so parlous that he had only had 11 players to choose from. Graham said that it would take him a year to knock Tottenham into shape, that the runs his team are enjoying in the Worthington Cup and the FA Cup were bonuses that he had not expected. O'Leary mocked him for that and even chastened the media for taking it in. "Just look at them," he said. "They are quality all the way through."

Gradually, it became a fascinating bout, a verbal game of tease that was more enthralling than a match that was admirable for its qualities of attrition and the unyielding performance of Sherwood, but for very little else. Graham tired of the sparring first, but O'Leary kept going. The more that he talked about the pitfalls a "foolhardy young manager like myself" can slip into, the more it became evident that he had learnt well from his former master.

He knew that this match was the focus of much attention and he was determined to capitalise. His theme was that the Leeds United chairman and directors had to prove to him that they had ambition, that they were not just paying lip-service to the idea of being one of the FA Carling Premiership giants. He would be asking them, in short, to put their money where their mouths were.

"We need a bigger squad," O'Leary said. "You look at players like Campbell and Sherwood playing for them and we have got a bunch of kids up against them. People were asking me before the game whether I had any surprises for George, but this team simply picked itself. There was nothing else.

"When I took the job, the board said they would give me a few bob to buy David Batty, but he is injured and he will be out for another six weeks or so. I am trying to pin the directors down to see if they want me to stay and if they want to take this blueprint on a bit. I think I am a decent coach, but everybody needs money to spend."

An inspection of the largely unfamiliar names on the Leeds bench made O'Leary's point just as neatly. For all the invention of Harry Kewell and the occasional inspiration of Bowyer, Leeds lacked the personnel to take the game to their visitors.

Tottenham should have taken the lead in the second minute, but Les Ferdinand delayed his shot long enough for Harte to block it on the line. It took them another 50 minutes to forge another chance, another shot from Ferdinand that he dragged just wide of Martyn's right-hand post.

A minute after that, though, they went ahead, when Sherwood fortuitously scooped a cross by Anderton over Martyn. They should have killed the game off then, but, 17 minutes from the end, Anderton allowed Harte to drift inside on to his weaker right foot and drill a low shot past Walker. "I'd told them he wasn't just all left foot," Graham said. George knows, of course, and now David knows, too.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — L Radebe, D Wetherall, J Woodgate, I Harte — A I Haaland (sub: W Korsten, 85min), D Hopkin, L Bowyer, H Kewell — J F Hasselbaink, A Smith.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, S Campbell, L Young, J Edinburgh — D Anderton (sub: A Nielsen, 83), T Sherwood, S Freund, D Ginola (sub: A Sinton, 83) — S Iversen, L Ferdinand.
Referee: N Barry

Di Matteo pops up to mask deficiencies

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 0
CHELSEA 1
by Kevin McCarra

ROBERTO DI MATTEO is mocked by his team-mates for the new peroxide hairdo, but Chelsea's own colourfulness is just as superficial. The assemblage of shiny reputations, varied nationalities and glamorous salaries distracts people from the fact that this is a very sober side. The penchant for late goals is not evidence of a flair for melodrama.

Often, Chelsea score significantly in the closing stages because they have been cautious and painstaking in their afternoon's work. There were six minutes left in this FA Cup-tie on Saturday when Dan Petrescu and Gianfranco Zola combined, priming Bjarne Goldbaek for the deep cross that was headed home by Di Matteo, his fellow substitute.

The move was full of handsome craftsmanship, rather than passionate spontaneity. The even tone of the match, until then, had led Sheffield Wednesday astray. Perhaps they mistook the occasion for a routine FA Carling Premiership match, in which the prospect of a goalless draw with Chelsea held some appeal. The bump with which Danny Wilson's team have landed in a heap outside this year's FA Cup will have jolted them into recognising the truth.

When the outcome was still in doubt, Wednesday could not summon up the rambunctiousness that should have been their main hope and Wilson observed that the team had lacked self-belief. Chelsea can be intimidating, but it is the baleful severity of their organisation, rather than cosmopolitan exuberance, that demoralises the opposition.

In the Premiership, they have scored 25 goals fewer than Manchester United this season. Players such as Tore Andre Flo, the forward, are missing, but the conservatism is also a matter of design. Gianluca Vialli, the player-manager, favours a system of two full backs on each flank. Celestine Babayaro, operating in front of Graham le Saux on the left, is nominally supposed to attack, but the further forward he moves, the less comfortable he becomes.

Vialli disputed the idea that Chelsea had been drab or bad and, mostly, he was correct. The visitors had far more polish than Wednesday in midfield, particularly once Di Matteo had replaced the injured Albert Ferrer. Though Niclas Alexandersson had two attempts to score after Benito Carbone, with assistance from Wim Jonk, had prised open space in the 73rd minute, Chelsea were usually masterful in defence. Even so, none of that able play could be depended upon to create impetus. Forwards are left with hard toil. Vialli, because of injuries, has been forced to return to the line-up, but he is now asking too much of himself and while his stamina is impressive, the Italian cannot summon up the old verve in the penalty box.

Given the limited support, this is not the side to suit a veteran attacker. Nonetheless, it was a welcome result for Chelsea, who might even have gone on to exercise their skills with greater freedom had not Dan Petrescu squandered a chance after Jody Morris put him clear in the sixth minute.

The Romanian is a former Wednesday player and the crowd barracked him with a gusto composed of pretended scorn and true fear. They understood his accomplishment well and dreaded its impact. Petrescu is part of a gifted yet hardy Chelsea. With his mind on the FA Cup Final, Zola joked that Di Matteo will have to get his hair fixed if he is going to meet the Queen.

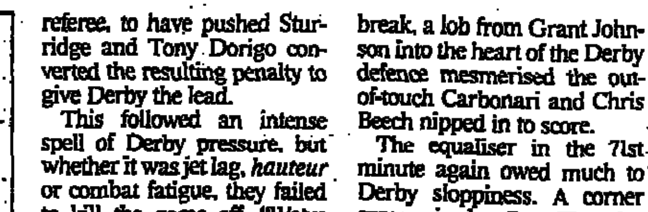
All the same, advisors would surely inform Her Majesty that, despite alarming appearances to the contrary, Chelsea are a conscientious group of young men when discharging their professional duties.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — P Atherton, E Thome, D Walker, D Stefanovic — N Alexandersson, D Sonner (sub: J Agogo, 89min), W Jonk, P Rudi (sub: L Briscoe, 83) — B Carbone, A Booth.
CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Goey — A Ferrer (sub: R Di Matteo, 29), F Leboeuf, M Desailly, G Le Saux — D Petrescu, J Morris (sub: B Goldbaek, 80), D Wise, C Babayaro — G Zola, G Vialli.
Referee: S Dunn

Vaesen defiant as Huddersfield bridge divide



Jackson: team helped by Vaesen's excellence



HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 2
DERBY COUNTY 2
by Martin Woods

FIRST it was fireworks for humble Wrexham in the fourth round. On Saturday, there were explosions of ticker-tape from the roofs of the stands at the McAlpine Stadium. One can only assume that should Huddersfield Town win the fifth-round replay at Pride Park, Barry Rubery, their owner, will be ringing up to book dancing elephants and the Red Arrows to greet the conquering heroes on their return to Yorkshire.

Once again, this chic stadium, with stands that appear to be too modern and comfortable and a pitch too suitable to progressive football to help a home side cast in the role of staunch underdogs, confirmed its reputation as a fortress.

Wisdom has it that what an underdog needs in an FA Cup-tie is a monsoon, a potholed playing surface and a baying crowd hugging the touchlines. Nonetheless, Peter Jackson's side have lost only once in their past 19 games here and they almost managed to breach the class divide against Derby County, who, apart from a spell early in the second half, performed like a concert pianist who lapses into *playing Three Blind Mice*.

On Saturday, Nico Vaesen, the Huddersfield goalkeeper, was largely responsible for keeping his side in the competition. His defenders were wholly negligent for the first, equalising Derby goal in the 55th minute, when Deon Burton rose alone to meet a cross from the right by Eranio and head home. Four minutes later, Rob Edwards, the full back, was adjudged by Gary Willard, the referee, to have pushed Sturridge and Tony Dorigo converted the resulting penalty to give Derby the lead.

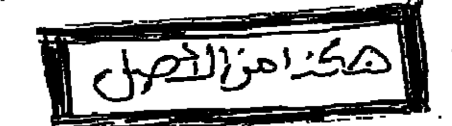
This followed an intense spell of Derby pressure, but whether it was jet lag, *hauteur* or combat fatigue, they failed to kill the game off. "We've had a nightmare week," Jim Smith, the Derby manager, said. "We have had seven players away, travelling to Jamaica, to Croatia and Dublin."

Jackson had also suffered. With nine players injured, he lost his second leading scorer, Wayne Allison, who was excused after the death of his father.

Huddersfield took the lead when, four minutes before the break, a lob from Grant Johnson into the heart of the Derby defence mesmerised the out-of-touch Carbonari and Chris Beech nipped in to score.

The equaliser in the 71st minute again owed much to Derby sloppiness. A corner swung in by Ben Thornley was headed on inadvertently by Carbonari and Marcus Stewart pounced to head past a statuesque Dorigo at the far post.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): N Vaesen - R Edwards, K Gray, J Dyson, D Edmondson (sub: D Facey, 65min) - D Phillips, C Beech, G Johnson, S Baldry - M Stewart, B Thornley.
DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2): R Hoult - H Carbonari (sub: D Powell, 77), I Stimac, S Prior - J Laursen, L Carsley, S Eranio, T Dorigo - F Baiano (sub: J Hunt, 87) - D Sturridge (sub: K Harper, 85), D Burton.
Referee: G Willard



'The goal was an accident. I am sorry'



'I made the offer to replay the match on television and also to Steve Bruce'
Arsène Wenger

IT HAD not been a good week for Nwankwo Kanu, Arsenal's £4.5 million signing from Internazionale, of Italy. Fellow expatriate members of the Igbo tribe from Nigeria wanted to welcome him to England with a traditional dance on the Highbury pitch, but Arsenal refused to play ball. Kanu was crestfallen. It was nothing, though, compared to the song and dance that he created when making his debut on Saturday.

Within 11 minutes of entering the FA Cup fifth-round tie against Sheffield United, Kanu was left a sad and bewildered figure. His crime, apparently inadvertent, was to break the unwritten code of conduct of returning the ball to an opponent after it had been deliberately kicked out of play. He gathered the ball from Ray Parlour's throw-in and, unchallenged, crossed it for Marc Overmars to score. In the ensuing pandemonium, Steve Bruce, the United manager, threatened to take his players off the pitch. It was all to no avail: the goal stood and United, after Marcelo had cancelled out Vieira's first-half header, had lost 2-1.

Kanu left the field alone, disconsolate. "It was an accident," he said. "It was a big mistake, it happened. I'm sorry."

Overmars also expressed remorse. "I didn't see what had happened on the other side," he said. "I saw Kanu running towards goal with the ball and just ran with him. I spoke to him afterwards and he was very sad. It was a big mistake, that's all."

Russell Kempson sees the FA Cup spill over with recriminations as combatants prepare to battle again

At the end, David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman and an influential Football Association councillor, conferred briefly with Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager. As Wenger went on television to reveal the offer of a replay to United, Dein took further soundings from Nick Coward, the FA's company secretary, who had watched the game, and Terry Annable, chairman of the FA Challenge Cup committee, by telephone.

"I offered to replay the match," Wenger said. "I made it on TV and to Steve Bruce." Dein confirmed the offer to Bruce and also consulted with David Davies, the FA's acting executive officer. Within an hour, the FA had sanctioned a second meeting.

Bruce insisted yesterday that he was not a "spoilt brat taking his ball home" with his furious reaction to the incident. "If I had just sat there and not made any protest, would we have got a replay for my team?" Bruce asked.

"It has never happened like that before and as for me being a spoilt brat, I think I've been the one who has been justified because people have seen common sense and we have got a replay. I was in despair because I have never seen anything like that happen on a football pitch."

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said yesterday: "The bush telegraph worked quickly. We're often criticised for acting too slowly, but it was agreed that this was the only way forward."

Although the result has been declared void, and probably the goals, too, the bookings — for Stuart, Hamilton, Holdsworth, Derry and Marcelo, all of United — stand. The first game of Emmanuel Petit's three-match suspension will be deemed to have been served and the Arsenal midfield player will be available for the rematch, likely to played on February 23.

The issue of the match receipts — almost £1 million from the crowd of 38,020 and programme sales — will be resolved today to decide the ticket allocations. It has been suggested that a sizeable sum be donated to charity.

On Saturday, Wenger and Dein were magnanimous, Bruce was incensed, Pter Jones, the referee, bemused, Overmars contrite and Kanu distraught. Amid the tangle of emotions and gestures of goodwill, perhaps the Igbo dancers should be allowed to strut their stuff, after all.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — N Winterburn, S Bould, G Grimandi, N Vivas — M Overmars, R Garde (sub: S Hughes, 44min), P Vieira, R Parlour — D Bergkamp, K Dawera (sub. N Kanu, 65).
SHEFFIELD UNITED (3-5-1): A Kelly — S Derry, D Holdsworth, L Sandford, W Quinn — P Devlin (sub. M Twiss, 90), G Stuart, C Woodhouse, I Hamilton, L Morris (sub: R Ford, 78) — Marcelo.
Referee: P Jones



'I'm not a spoilt brat taking my ball home. I think I am the one who has been justified'
Steve Bruce

The day that football cried foul



Sheffield United players descend angrily upon Jones, the referee, after the controversial circumstances that led to Arsenal's "winning" goal from Overmars in the fifth-round tie at Highbury. Photograph: Steve Bardens

Oliver Holt says that Arsenal and the FA have struck a valuable blow for sportsmanship

There are few moments in modern football among the robot athleticism, cloying commercialism and culture of the win bonus that recall the origins of the game and the sense of honour that pervaded it. The return of the ball to an opponent, even when the laws of the game do not strictly demand it, is one of the last remnants of that spirit, the only action that brings spontaneous applause from all supporters. It makes fans and players feel as if they are part of a sporting community, not just partisans seeking the downfall of the other.

Amid the catcalls, the boos, the obscene chants, the baiting, the taunting, the ritual hostility, it is a vestige of decency that jogs some half-forgotten instinct for fair play. If Arsenal and the Football Association had not colluded to force a replay of the FA Cup fifth-round tie against Sheffield United on Saturday, then this facet of the game, too, would have been lost to English football for ever.

Going with the flow, taking the pragmatic course and insisting that the result stood would have been as cynical as killing off the last of a rare species. It would have been a victory for bureaucrats, for pen-pushers and small minds, for jobsworths and unbending rule-observers everywhere.

If Arsenal had gone unchallenged into the sixth-round draw yesterday, how could any English team have ever turned their backs in trust again? How could they have ever thought the best of their opponents? Just as important, failure to act would have reduced every team's willingness to kick the ball into touch to hasten treatment for an injury.

The curmudgeons will accuse David Davies, the FA's acting chief executive, of taking the easy option, of opening the game up to an anarchy of copycat claims, of acting with undue haste and pandering to populist appeal. In fact, Davies has taken the harder path, the path that opens him to more criticism, and it is something that he should be applauded for. The speed with which he acted merely helped to prevent a weekend of hysterical disapproval being directed at an Arsenal team already under fire for its disciplinary record.

There are many competing arguments here, many concerns, many legitimate worries about setting a precedent. At the bottom of it all, though, is the inescapable fact that, morally, the FA has done the right thing. It is a long time since it has been accused of that. It was not the best solution. It may, indeed, cause problems in the future. Of course, it would have been better if Overmars had taken the first opportunity to get the ball, run back towards his own goal, tap it into his own net and let the game start from scratch.

If one is being uncharitable towards Peter Jones, the referee might have stopped Nwankwo Kanu in his tracks and booked him for unsportsmanlike conduct. But that did not happen. If Arsenal had not offered, almost demanded, to replay the game, then there would have been little chance of ordering a replay. But that, too, makes this case different.

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, and David Dein, the vice-chairman, were adamant that Sheffield United and Steve Bruce, their manager, be given a second chance, something that has not occurred when other abuses of the Corinthian spirit have happened in the past. The niceties need to be sorted out, as does the issue of whether supporters should have to pay to watch an occasion necessitated only by the naivety and stupidity of two of their own players. But that is insignificant compared with the blow for old values struck by Wenger and the FA.

Leading article, page 19

THE REFEREE'S POINT OF VIEW

PETER JONES could do little to resolve the moral dilemma at Highbury. If he had booked Marc Overmars or Nwankwo Kanu for unsporting behaviour, he would have had to disallow Overmars's goal and, if he had done that, he could have landed in trouble with the refereeing authorities. He played it by the book.

"Peter was 100 per cent right as the law stands," David Elleray, England's leading referee, said yesterday. "A referee has no power to tell players to throw the ball back to their opponents and no power to penalise them if they don't. It is a sporting convention between players, that's all. No law was broken. All referees would have done what he [Jones] did."

Not so. In a game against Preston North End last month, Jeff Whitley, of Wrexham, scored direct from the restart after Preston had kicked the ball into touch to allow an injured player to receive treatment. Brian Coddington disallowed the goal ... and Wrexham lost 5-0.

Rob Hughes says the Highbury affair may benefit England's 2006 World Cup bid

Viewed from abroad, the Highbury affair has sent immediate and mixed messages to the football world. In bygone times, the English were associated with setting the standards of sportsmanship and in Barcelona, where many of football's brethren were gathered for the contest between Barcelona and Real Madrid, the consensus was: "How swift, how right, how Corinthian of the English." That it was at the behest of a Frenchman and that England were absorbing their second French lesson in a week, made little or no difference.

It was the rapid reaction of the Football Association that sent ripples around the international community, not least because the broken "gentleman's agreement" over the 2006 World Cup bid was ill-taken overseas and because they considered that the FA moved with the pace of an elephant.

And yet there is foreboding. Many people recall that, a few seasons ago, the German football federation (DfB) ordered a league match vital to both the championship and relegation to be replayed when television proved a refereeing error after an incident similar to the disallowed goal that Nicolas Anelka scored at Wembley last week. They remember, too, that Fifa at once upbraided the DfB for unilaterally taking the decision.

The lack of consultation, not only with Fifa and Uefa, the world and European governing bodies, but also within the FA, will doubtless be raised when the International Football Board meets Fifa officials within the month.

We know, or can summise, why David Davies accepted so rapidly the offer of a replay from Arsenal. It is justice of sorts and it would be churlish in the extreme not to applaud that. Kanu and Overmars may have broken an unwritten rule and it is time, if that is a problem, that Fifa puts this issue of sportsmanship firmly on to the statutes. The International Board meeting could write this into the rulebook with the blessing of all.

However, this assumes that Corinthianism still plays a part in a game that has become a vast, ruthless, commercial enterpise. The FA Cup has run for 127 years without confronting such a situation, or making such a rapid response. Yet it was in December, 1997, that Arsenal themselves felt cheated by Blackburn Rovers when Chris Sutton and Kevin Gallacher profited at their expense. That was not overturned and now it is inconceivable that the other cheek of sportsmanship will be turned in future.

Should Davies have done what comes naturally to FA officials and dithered? If he had, then the moment and the momentum would have passed. Sheffield United would have accepted their wretched misfortune and the spirit of fair play would have suffered another, perhaps terminal, blow. But Davies, wishing to be seen to be as decisive — not least because he seeks permanent office — was also clever in his later statement. "We are members of Fifa," he said, "and their slogan is 'fair play'. We wanted to show everyone that fair play matters in this country."

Let us hope that it does. Let us grasp the spirit of what Wenger offered and the FA accepted with alacrity. It could mean more in the coming year than any amount of money spent trying to procure votes for 2006. If there are equal candidates, the one who plays fair, who sets the standards, deserves to be treated on merit.

From Jaap de Groot, the chief sports writer of the Dutch newspaper, De Telegraaf and one of the journalists in Barcelona, there was this conclusion. "Wenger may need to promise the Arsenal supporters that his club will try to win everything next season ... they should already be assured of the Fair Play Trophy."

Clumsy Rovers punished by Hignett



ONLY the meanest of souls can have followed Barnsley's unequal, heroic but ultimately futile battle against the fat squads and wallets of the FA Carling Premiership last season without developing a soft spot for the Yorkshiremen. It was, though, a little extreme of Bristol Rovers to take theirs with them to Oakwell on Saturday and play it at the heart of their defence.

Barnsley may have been out-sung in the stands, even outmanoeuvred on the pitch for the first half-hour, but it was Rovers who went out of the FA Cup, their pride mercifully but only tenuously intact, as Barnsley breezed into the quarter-finals for the second successive season with an assurance that they can scarcely have dreamt possible, despite their loftier status.

It was a measure of the scale of Rovers' defeat that their fans took more consolation from news of Bristol City's fate than they did from the late goal that Roberts tucked away neatly to complete the scoring. Inter-city rivalries can be a source of comfort when your own train has been derailed.

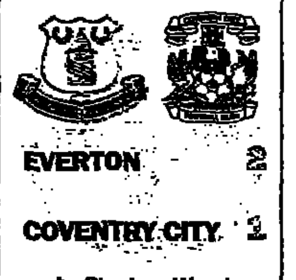
More pertinently, as far as the Cup is concerned, how good are Barnsley? The team that was sucked unforgivingly into the Premiership relegation waters under Danny Wilson has made surprisingly few ripples in the first division under John Hendrie. There is a familiarity about the defence that conceded 94 goals last season and little has been changed in midfield, either, but while nearly £3 million has been spent on the attack, it is perhaps only now that Barnsley stand to reap the rewards of their investment.

"You are only as good as your strikers," Hendrie said after being able to harness Bruce Dyer, Craig Hignett and Mike Sheron together for the first time, to devastating effect. The main beneficiary was Hignett, operating in the hole that Rovers helped to dig for themselves. He scored a hat-trick, but on each occasion was aided by poor defending.

"They say the worst things that can happen to a club are relegation and a change of manager," Hendrie said. Barnsley, having suffered both, maybe deserved a day such as this.

BARNSLEY (3-4-1-2): A Bullock — A De Zeeuw, A Moses (sub. M Appleby, 80min), S Jones — N Eaden, S McClare, E Tinkler (sub: K Richardson, 80), D Sheridan — C Hignett — B Dyer, M Sheron (sub: M Bullock, 67).
BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): L Jones — D Pritchard, S Foster, M Trought, T Challis — R Trees (sub: G Penrice, 64), J Shore, D Lee (sub: J Low, 64), S Leoni — J Cureton, J Roberts.
Referee: A Wilkie.

Jeffers holds a controlling interest



BILL KENWRIGHT, the theatre impresario and deputy chairman of Everton, beamed a huge smile before shouting to an acquaintance a few feet away: "It's the romance!" In keeping with the embarrassing nature of Everton's season so far, said acquaintance failed to hear first time, so Kenwright had to repeat it.

The message was eventually received and, hallelujah, Kenwright was proved to be correct. It was half-time and his delirium owed everything to the fact that his team had scored a rare goal and were in front.

Everton have been miserable so-and-sos for the past few months, but, having fallen for the magic of the FA Cup, they became sentimental old fools to reach the quarter-finals.

The sense of relief around Goodison Park was overpowering. Players hugged each other, the supporters gave them a standing ovation and Thomas Myhre, the goalkeeper, threw his gloves into the terraces. It was genuinely touching, providing, as it did, a welcome respite from the bilge that has preceded it.

Kenwright and Francis Jeffers, an 18-year-old striker, have leading roles to play in assuring a brighter future. Kenwright has launched an official attempt to buy the 68 per cent controlling interest still held by Peter Johnson, the former chairman. Jeffers, though, is the only ray of light on the field. Senior strikers, such as Ibrahima Bakayoko, 22, and Danny Cadamarteri, 19, have dribbled the fortunes of the team into dead ends.

The form of Jeffers for the youth and reserve teams has been too good to ignore, confirming his comeback from a heart condition that interrupted his career last season.He scored his well-taken goal after 20 minutes, while John Oster doubled the lead 13 minutes from time. In between, Dave Watson, the 37-year-old defender, was outstanding.

"There was a fear that Francis would not be big enough at this level," Watson said, "but they said that about Ian Rush and he did OK." Coventry threatened to ruin Everton's big day when Gary McAllister scored direct from a free kick with six minutes remaining.

EVERTON (4-4-2): T Myhre — M Ward (sub: J O'Kane, 30min), D Watson, R Dunne, M Ball — J Oster (sub. I Bakayoko, 90), O Dacourt, T Grant, N Barmby — F Jeffers (sub: D Cadamarteri, 89), D Hutchison.
COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M Hedman — R Nilsson, R Shaw, G Breen, D Burrows — G Boateng (sub: P Telfer, 69), P Clement (sub: T Soltvedt, 73), G McAllister, S Froggatt (sub: J Aloisi, 78) — N Whelan, D Huckerby.
Referee: U Rennie



Sunderland style earns late slice of fortune

Bristol City	0
Sunderland	1

By a Correspondent

NOT SO much a game of two halves these days, more one of two haves — "the haves" and the "have-nots". The disparity between these clubs was evident at Ashton Gate.

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, spoke of quality, saying that he would have paid to see passing like that practised by his young side. Benny Lennartsson, the Bristol City coach, could only admire the visiting talent.

"It's a benchmark for the others," Lennartsson said. "To buy quality like that, people ask stupid money. We struggled just to keep in the game in the first half. For us, it's a question of working very hard with what we have."

An all-blue strip resembling that of Wimbledon and a lighthouse centre forward in Niall Quinn would have suggested 90 minutes of neckache for supporters. In the event, the visitors produced a cultured approach made possible by players who display minimum panic on the ball and maximum movement off it.

Kevin Phillips, partnering Quinn up front, was the greatest exponent of this technique and perhaps it was inevitable that he should be pivotal in the deciding goal. It was a curious decision by Steve Phillips, the City goalkeeper, to dash from his line as his namesake pounced from wide in the 18-yard box. More curious was that Rob Styles should point to the spot when both men tumbled to the ground.

Unshaken, the Sunderland striker converted the penalty, condemning the referee to a barrage of boos and a few choice words from Scott Davidson, the City chairman, as he left the field. The Waterlooville official is to report Davidson to the Football Association.

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): S Phillips — [illegible] Brennan, M Shail, L Carey, M Bell (sub: V Sebok, 32min) — F Murray, A Locke, I Tinnion, B Tinnion — A Akinbiyi, S Torpey (sub: S Andersen, 81).
SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T Sorensen — C Makin, A Melville, P Butler, M Gray — N Summerbee, K Ball, L Clark, A Johnston — N Quinn (sub: D Dichio, 77), K Phillips.
Referee: R Styles.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: WEST BROMWICH DENIED AS OFFICIALS LOSE SIGHT OF GOAL

Smith refuses to labour point

Bolton Wanderers	2
West Bromwich Albion	1

By Mel Webb

IF HE were in a mind so to do, Denis Smith could be forgiven this morning for grabbing his writing pad and dropping a line to those executive types at Lancaster Gate to ask if, in the light of their decision after all that hoopla in North London, they would arrange to give him his point back, the precedent having been set.

Stoical chap that he is, the West Bromwich Albion manager will grin through gritted teeth and bear it. However, he could relate the tale, unvarnished with irrelevant detail, of how his team, 2-1 down in the second half of their first division match at the Reebok Stadium on Saturday, forced the ball a good 18 inches across the Bolton Wanderers goalline not once, but twice in the space of a few seconds, yet were denied the goal.

He could produce countless witnesses who would have to swear, regardless of partisan bias, that the ball clearly crossed the line. No slo-mo replay would be necessary, no amount of extra officials in the stand required. It was as clear as day, except to the only two people who mattered — the referee and his assistant at that end of the pitch.

"I spoke to the referee about it and he said he did not see the ball go over the line," Smith said, then added, mordantly witty: "The linesman? No, he couldn't have seen it — his view was obstructed by the goalkeeper in the back of the net with the ball." Ouch.

Actually, if Smith were in an actively protesting mood, he would need, if the Highbury affair was to be used as a template, a sympathetic opposition manager to speak up in his support and he would have no chance there. Colin Todd, his Bolton counterpart, knew what had happened but was quite happy with what he had got, thanks very much.

"The ball was probably over the line," he conceded, skilfully injecting a scintilla of doubt into an incident in which doubt never played a part. "But I was pleased with the way things went today." Well, he would be — it is not every day that your team draw 2-2 and get three points for it.

It was, as well as being Bolton's fourteenth first division match without defeat, their sixth league victory in succession and, if this was the luckiest of the lot by a distance, not even the best can get by without a slice of good fortune now and again. It pushed them up to second place in the table and left their opponents still just off the play-off pace.

West Bromwich deservedly took the lead in the 27th minute with De Freitas's low, powerful shot past Jaaskelainen's despairing right hand and Bolton capped a pulsating first half when Taylor found a yard of space on the central defenders and side-footed in a whipped cross by Johansen a minute before half-time.

Six minutes after the break, Cox, the Bolton full back, finished off a fluent move to put his side into the lead. Within a minute, the visitors scored — twice — in a frenzied goalmouth scrimmage. The equaliser made the score Bolton 2, West Brom 1: funny old game.

HARRY McGUIRE



Taylor, right, the Bolton striker, scores the equalising goal against his former club

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): J Jaaskelainen — N Cox, R Elliott, M Fish, M Whitlow — M Johansen, C Jensen (sub: R Gardner, ?min), P Frandsen, S Sellars — D Holdsworth, R Taylor.
WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-2): P Whitehead — P Holmes, M Carbon (sub: D Burgess, 90), S Murphy, G Potter — J Quinn, R Sneekes, S Flynn, K Kilbane (sub: M Bortolazzi, 86) — F De Freitas (sub: M Angel, 77), L Hughes.
Referee: J Kirkby.

Scouts savour the Dyer experience

Bradford City	0
Ipswich Town	0

By George Caulkin

THE saviour of English football was running a little late. The card school was already taking shape, the first cans being cracked open in muted celebration, by the time that Kieron Dyer found his way aboard the team coach. There had been duties to perform: a quick word with the sponsors perhaps, a bottle of champagne to collect.

"Did nothing, Dyer. On a really poor run at the moment," one querulous East Anglian voice had lamented after Ipswich Town's nineteenth clean sheet of the season. This of a player drafted into the full England squad for the first time last week and voted man of the match against Bradford City.

All of it befitting a genuine midfield enigma. As tiresome as it is familiar, "Just What Can Be Done About England" is once more doing the rounds and, unlikely as it may seem, Ipswich Town are providing a realistic solution. Not since 1982, when Bobby Robson was appointed England manager, have the club held such potential for positive, lasting influence.

Despite signing a new contract recently, the scouts have been flocking regularly to Ipswich and there was another troupe at Valley Parade on Saturday.

Dyer's contribution had been minimal, but the immediacy of his talent was palpable, as it was at Bisham Abbey last week. With that disarming, youthful combination of modesty and confidence, he had promised to take an autograph book and talked of "a wonderful experience, training with these world-class players".

With Paul Gascoigne tipping the scales of credibility, Jamie Redknapp unfulfilled, Paul Ince suspended and Darren Anderton anonymous, Dyer's chance could come sooner rather than later, although it is likely that England's search for their own Zidane will be put on hold until the pressing burden of the Euro 2000 qualifying tie with Poland next month is eased.

Dyer will continue doing nothing, running the game and adding to his wine cellar. Bradford hit the crossbar on Saturday. David Johnson was booked for diving, but the attention was elsewhere. "Not my type of game, that," he shrugged. Wrong, wrong and wrong again. Most certainly, it is.

BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G Walsh — S Wright, D Moore, A Westwood, W Jacobs — J Lawrence, S McCall, G Whalley, P Beagrie — R Blake (sub: I Rankin, 84min), L Mills.
IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-2): R Wright — A Tanner, T Mowbray, M Venus — F Wilnis, K Dyer, J Magilton, M Holland, J Clapham — M Harewood (sub: R Naylor, 62), D Johnson.
Referee: G Frankland.

Luis Enrique leads party in Barcelona

Barcelona	3
Real Madrid	0

From Rob Hughes in Barcelona

CARNIVAL began in Barcelona last Thursday and it is due to stretch until Ash Wednesday. However, it will seem much, much longer than that after Barcelona, in their centenary year, humbled Real Madrid in front of a capacity crowd of 98,000 citizens of Catalonia.

It stretched to eight Barcelona's run of consecutive victories and it is now six years since the imperialists from Madrid scored a goal on the famous Nou Camp ground and 16 years since they last savoured victory there. Oh yes, the Catalans are in a period of enjoyment.

They seemed to have everything that they wanted yesterday, starting with a goal from Luis Enrique in the fourth minute, reaching fever pitch when Roberto Carlos, of Madrid, was sent off for a violent tackle in the twentieth minute and then, with the movement and the guile of Barcelona altogether too sweet for the champion team of Europe, it was simply a matter of how many goals they hungered for.

In the end, it was a mere three, so Iturralde Gonzalez, the referee, whose grandfather had officiated in the match in 1935, could not say that it runs entirely in the blood. The score in his grandfather's time was 5-0.

But who is counting? It is carnival. This was the first time in history that, to the dismay even of the governments of Catalonia and Spain, they had dared to put the match on digital pay-per-view television. They had a captive audience because, with the stadium now reduced from 120,000, because of all-seater requirements, the lucky "few" is becoming thinner.

No matter, with Rivaldo, the player preferred here to Steve McManaman, so positive and so skilful on the left, there was only one team in it from the beginning. He began the move for the first goal, though when Kluivert took it up from the edge of the penalty box, there was work to do. The tall Dutchman checked in his stride, cut back inside Campo and, with his right foot, delicately, deliciously floated the ball on to the head of Luis Enrique for a gently headed goal.

Real were at sea and they never had faith in Pedro Contreras, their reserve goalkeeper — and he, indeed, was given poor cover by Roberto Carlos. The Brazilian is such a mover coming forward, such a threat with his left foot, but yesterday he was morose, hissed from the start because he had boasted to the media that he had rejected a move to Barcelona and his part in the game was rightfully over less than a quarter of the way through. He chased Figo, launched a two-footed tackle 18 inches off the ground and, when his boot scythed down Figo, a reckless challenge if ever there was one, it was the type of tackle that the red card was invented for. Roberto Carlos claimed later that he "got something" on the ball. That is not the point, the referee saw ill-intent.

Over and out for Roberto Carlos and for his already disjointed team. After 36 minutes, it was 2-0. Barcelona stroked the ball patiently and potently. Figo teased the unfortunate Campo, sending him this way and that before Guardiola, his captain, delicately chipped the ball into the centre, and, once again, Luis Enrique almost nonchalantly headed the goal.

It was virtually a *fait accompli*. Barcelona had nothing to fear but their own complacency, which, from time to time, allowed Real to stretch Ruud Hesp, the Barcelona goalkeeper. That was practice, and the perfection came in the other goalmouth, eight minutes from time. Kluivert had been content, on this crisp and clear evening, to draw Hierro out of defence and he did so again, allowing the most accomplished performer on the field to finish the affair. Rivaldo moved instinctively through the middle, took the ball high on the outside of his left thigh and then needed two more touches: the first controlled the ball and at the same time evaded the lunging Campo; the second dispatched the ball, left-footed low inside the far post.

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So, it was complete. Down in the Spanish capital, Español, Barcelona's "other" club, had on Saturday night defeated Atlético Madrid 2-1. This was the old one-two for the separatists who enjoy their autonomy through the round ball — and the excuse for much more carnival.

BARCELONA (3-3-1-3): R Hesp — F Abelardo, F de Boer, B Sergi (sub: R Garcia, 89min) — R de Boer, J Guardiola, P Cocu — Luis Enrique (sub: O Garcia, 86) — Luis Figo, P Kluivert, Rivaldo.
REAL MADRID (4-3-1-2): P Contreras — C Panucci, F Hierro, I Campo, Roberto Carlos — C Seedorf, M Sanchis (sub: C Karembeu, 75), R Jarni — Raul — P Mijatovic (sub: Savio, 46), F Morientes (sub: J-M Guti, 46).
Referee: Iturralde Gonzalez.

□ Atlético Madrid, the Spanish first division club, yesterday dismissed Arrigo Sacchi, the former Italy coach, after a string of poor results. He had been in the job for just seven months.



Seedorf, left, of Real Madrid, slides in to tackle Rivaldo

Morrison stands his ground

Bournemouth	0
Manchester City	0

By Nick Szczepanik

MANCHESTER City, of course, are old hands at deflating expectations, usually those of their own supporters. On Saturday, however, they disappointed Dean Court's biggest crowd of the season, more than 10,000, who had come to see their favourites reaffirm their promotion credentials with victory over the Nationwide League second division's favourite fallen giants.

Unfortunately for them, City were made of sterner stuff than Preston North End or Stoke City, Bournemouth's recent victims.

The visiting players' commitment went, if anything, too far at times. Cautions for dissent led to the dismissals of two City players — Jamie Pollock, the captain, was sent off for the third time this season after receiving a second yellow card for a foul with ten minutes left, while Kevin Horlock went in stoppage time.

At least it shows that they care, a point proved as City threw their remaining bodies in the way of Bournemouth's late surge, guaranteeing a clean sheet that they had earned by restricting the previously prolific home team to a handful of chances. Steve Fletcher controlled a long pass before firing wide on the turn in the first half, but it was the only time he escaped the attentions of Andy Morrison.

Morrison, also booked for dissent, has a physique that would not look out of place at rugby league grounds, but City followers are more than happy to have him at Maine Road: a fanzine asked: "Where can we get another half-dozen Andy Morrisons?"

City, who have crept up on to the fringes of the play-off positions, could have spoilt Bournemouth's unbeaten home record if Gareth Taylor had taken one of three second-half chances.

AFC BOURNEMOUTH [illegible]
MANCHESTER CITY [illegible]
Referee: [illegible]

Witter falls foul of the law

Cambridge United	0
Scunthorpe United	0

By Pat Gibson

SCOUTS turn up regularly to test covetous eyes over Cambridge United's emerging players, but it was a veteran defender that nobody seemed to want who stole the show in this Nationwide League third-division promotion tussle.

Tony Witter, 33, formerly of Crystal Palace, Queens Park Rangers and Millwall, was turning out for Welling United in the Nationwide Conference when he got a call from Brian Laws, the Scunthorpe United manager, and, after having an injection on the team bus to deaden the pain of a toe injury suffered in his only training session, proceeded to draw the sting of Cambridge's 39-goal strike force of Butler, Benjamin and Taylor.

His only disappointment came two minutes into injury time, when he was ludicrously sent off for a second bookable offence and if William Jordan, the referee and a police inspector, shares Arsene Wenger's sense of fair play, he may well reflect that there was a miscarriage of justice.

Witter, who had been booked in the seventieth minute for little more than a clumsy challenge, said: "The player [Butler] fell over for the umpteenth time and although he apologised afterwards, the damage had been done."

Laws thought it was "ridiculous", but wisely said no more. He had discovered that Jordan was a stickler for the law when he offered him his glasses after an earlier incident and was reprimanded by two constables as well as an inspector. Even so, he was pleased with the result, which deprived Cambridge of a win that would have taken them to the top of the table, and was full of praise for Witter's part in it. "He's done a fantastic job, considering he came in at short notice," Law said. "He was a free agent, but he isn't now."

CAMBRIDGE UNITED [illegible]
SCUNTHORPE UNITED [illegible]
Referee: [illegible]

Raine puts damper on Barry's parade

Non-League Football by Walter Gammie

CONNAH'S Quay Nomads, for the second year running, have knocked Barry Town, the League of Wales champions, out of the Welsh Cup, winning the fourth-round tie at Jenner Park 1-0 on Saturday thanks to a goal in the eighth minute by Stuart Raine.

Connah's Quay held on from the 37th minute with only ten men after Jamie Hughes, their striker, was sent off for a second bookable offence. The Nomads beat Barry 2-1 in the semi-finals at Newtown last year, going on to lose to Bangor City in the final.

They will be at home to the winners of the replay between Inter Cable-Tel and Pontardawe in the quarter-finals. The other ties are Ammanford Town v Conwy United, TNS v Cwmbran and Carmarthen Town v Port Talbot.

It remains neck and neck at the head of the Football Conference, with Kettering Town and Cheltenham Town winning on Saturday. Steve Williams, signed by Peter Morris, the Kettering manager, from King's Lynn, his former club, came off the substitutes' bench to score the winner in a 2-1 victory over Telford United.

Yeovil Town maintained their unbeaten run away from home when goals by Warren Patmore and Owen Pickard brought them a 2-0 victory over Doncaster Rovers at Belle Vue.

Joe Nartey, the Aldershot Town striker, kept up his personal crusade against Bishop's Stortford, who are struggling at the foot of the Ryman League premier division. Nartey scored four times in a 5-0 win at the Recreation Ground on Saturday, having scored five against the same opponents in an 8-0 win in September and once when playing against them during a loan spell at Billericay Town.

Bottle of English Hope leaves bitter taste in mouth



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

And this time the morning is more than dreadful. Your body rings with the sour taste of too much. You get only the misery. You have *forgotten* the reason why it all began. You have forgotten the feeling of feeling good. You just don't get it any more.

And, for some, there comes a day when you say: "Enough." Or: "Too much. It ends now." And even then you fear that it could all start again. You fear that you might come sneaking back. No harm in watching a couple of overs, is there? And maybe it wasn't so bad after all. Maybe the misery was an over-reaction. There are plenty of good things to be had. They had just *escaped your attention*. After all, Goughy might stay fit. And Hickie really has come good at last, hasn't he? And the Gaffer. Well, that triple burden of captaincy, wicket-keeping and opening the batting. If anybody can do it, he can. And so you take a swig of that most dangerous and insidious bottle of all: the illegally-distilled hooch, the moonshine, England cricket's murderous self-blinding white *lightning known as Hope*.

And the problems with that treacherous English poteen is *that one sip is never quite* enough. And nor are one thousand. You sip until the bottle is *dry and then you hunt for another*. Hope is England cricket's equivalent of the Old Janx *Spirit*, central ingredient for the most lethal cocktail of all, the Pan-Galactic Gargle-Blaster. "Oh don't give me none of that Old Janx Spirit, for my head will fly, my tongue will lie, my eyes will fry and I may die. Won't you pour me one more of that sinful Old Janx Spirit."

That was how it felt on Saturday morning watching England playing, to use the term loosely, cricket, to use the term *even more* loosely. You brace yourself for a headache and you get a near-death experience. *You brace yourself for disappointment* and you get despair. You prepare yourself for *defeat and you get humiliation.*

I mean, 13 for four. Switch off at once. But no, you watch, you sip on until the bottle is empty. You watch Ealham and Wells work out that the right tactic for dealing with the best slow bowler in the world is to swipe across the line.

The sole interest of the occasion *became the question of* whether or not England would sink to their worst-ever one-day *defeat. Hooray! It turned* out only to be their second worst. And Warne ended it all with the perfect zooter — a delivery straight from the *Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy*.

The last delivery implies that England were beaten by brilliance, when the truth is that they lost because they expected *to lose*. Don't believe a single thing they tell you about thinking positive, even though *they all believe it* themselves. They are all in thrall to the culture of defeat. They were defeated *in their hearts* before they set foot on the plane. This sickness in the soul has its fascination *and brief moments*, when — like a depressive having a good day — you could almost believe in recovery. And then the blackness descends. Churchill used to refer to his intermittent companion — depression — as the Black Dog. The England cricket team has been pursued across the past decade and a half by a baying pack of enormous black hounds.

And this is a problem for the television companies. The Sky commentary team responded with a kind of dull shock, but dullness has always been something of a *specialité de la maison*. Channel 4, which will in time be taking on the summer Tests, must wonder if it has done the right thing.

Sure, the old lads will be back to sip once more from that bottle named Hope. But recruiting new viewers will be hard. Defeat is nearly as exciting as victory, but defeatism is another matter. Not very sexy, not very new millennium.

And, of course, there are viewers more strong-minded than myself, who will be able to walk away and who will not be back. Charles Colville cornered David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, and Graveney had clearly been hitting the Old Janx Spirit pretty hard. *He started* talking about "one bad game".

Colville's charm as a television person is that he lacks every iota of the weary old pro's attitude to the game. With a cry *almost of pain*, he blurted out, "But it's not just one bad game is it?" He was speaking for his viewers, which is a rare thing. He was protesting against the extraordinary refusals of England cricket people to come to terms with the fact that the England team is locked in a spiral of defeatism.

Graveney responded with a list of names and pointed out that people such as this "don't become bad players overnight". Perhaps not, but we keep on hoping that they are going to become good players overnight. Hoping. Hoping. Won't you pour me one more of that sinful Old Janx Spirit?

Keegan's actions indicate worm has not turned



LYNNE TRUSS



MARC ASPLAND

Basking in the spotlight: Fulham's exit from the FA Cup at Old Trafford left Keegan as the inevitable centre of attention with the job of England manager to be filled

Whoever coined the expression "can of worms" all those *years ago* has a lot to answer for. What to make of the Football Association's snap decision on Saturday to allow a replay of the controversial Arsenal v Sheffield United match? "Can of worms," I opined at once, shaking my head in sorrow. "Can of worms," every pundit said. The fact that nobody has ever seen a can of worms, or indeed stopped to *consider the exact point of the* expression, didn't much matter.

Yesterday, I found myself asking people who didn't care: "But why is it a can of worms? Do the worms escape? Is that the point? Or do they form an inextricable tangle? I mean, if the point is that the contents of the can rapidly disperse, like the stuff in Pandora's Box, why would you pick worms? Worms are really slow off the mark, surely? That's why there are no worm races in the Far East . . ."

At which point, I was forced to concede that certain idiomatic oddities just don't bear a lot of interrogation. At Old Trafford yesterday, however, worms were still much on my mind. They kept turning, all afternoon. The fifth-round FA Cup match turned out to be an exuberantly slithery, slidey affair, with those normally quick-witted Manchester United players made to look stolid and unimaginative by a zippy, slidey, slippery team.

If this is what the worms are like when they are let out, I now appreciate the force of the phrase. A bucketful of offal just doesn't cover it. Steve Finnan and the other Fulham defenders repeatedly wiggled the ball away from the United strikers — Andy Cole, Dwight Yorke, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer — *while, in attack,* Barry Hayles escaped his markers as though coated in Castrol GTX. I have never seen such wriggly-writhey lubrica*tion on a football field*. "Go, worms, go," I urged them, finding that I had taken sides in an unprofessional manner. "Yoo hoo, Kevin! Great job with those worms!" And so on.

When you don't support either team yourself, you can take a lot of consolation from a valiant 1-0 defeat, well-fought. It's the irritating privilege of the non-aligned. To be frank, I had a marvellous time at Old Trafford yesterday (despite the freezing drizzle) because the game was clean and clever and full of blocked shots that rebounded dangerously, only to be struck and blocked again. "Ooh-ah," we said, a lot.

It wasn't what I had expected from the match programme, in which each Fulham player was damned with faint praise for his doggedness and "good service". As it turned out, you see, Fulham needed only big-brimmed hats *with ostrich feathers* in to announce any more clearly their elegance and flair.

The big story of this match, of course, was what its outcome would signify for the future of Kevin Keegan — a complicated calculation based entirely on supposition. Winning and reaching the quarter-finals of the Cup would impress everybody at the FA, but also (perhaps) make him more determined to do the right thing and stick with Fulham. Losing the match disastrously would be bad for any England ambitions; but then he was claiming until yesterday not to have any, anyway. Aaargh. Now he's saying he will speak to the FA if they call him, but that he won't "walk out" on his contract. I am attracted towards an image involving a tangle of *primitive subterranean organisms* revealed in a tin receptacle, but will resist it at all costs.

The key to Keegan is his love of the limelight, of course. He's got charisma, he's a household name, he loves begetting headlines, so how long will he really remain at Fulham? Yes, Fulham have responded magnificently to treatment and will soon go up a division, but they are now out of the Cup and the rest of the season will be hard work for a relatively meagre reward.

> 'Where did Kev disappear to? is the regular cry'

Last year, at an event promoting Keegan's autobiography (his third), I met a woman who idolised him so utterly that she had 42 scrapbooks, a hundred videos and (I think) even his home address. "He always sends me a Christmas card," *she whispered,* giving me a nudge. "She prefers Cliff to me, really." Keegan responded, undisturbed. When he was on the telly after a recent match at Southampton, he told Barry Davies "good to be back" — and he surely didn't mean it was good to be back at smelly old Southampton, unless he was losing his mind.

I assume it's dangerous to read matches as if they are messages to destiny; it's a bit unfair to judge managers on a *single* team performance, too. But if we can conclude that Howard Wilkinson is a thorough wet and a weed after the France match last week, we can likewise say, after this respectable defeat away to Manchester United, that Keegan has everything that we've been after. "We lack motivation!" we all wailed on Wednesday, after the match. "He has given them motivation!" we exclaimed yesterday. The only problem is that Keegan has what a friend of mine recently described as a "pattern of flight" — of disappearing unexpectedly. And patterns don't get broken very often in life.

"Ooh, er, where did Kev disappear to?" is the regular cry, wherever he pledges himself.

So no wonder, every time he's recently declared his allegiance to Fulham (his intention as an honourable man to fulfil his contract and finish the job and keep right on to the end of the road), it has sounded increasingly hollow. At the back of everyone's mind is the niggle: if he's willing to leave Fulham after all (with his chairman's blessing), won't the cry "ooh, er, where's Kev?" inevitably ring out at Lancaster Gate one day in the next couple of years?

On the subject of that other can of worms this weekend, I started out with a gooey feel-good reaction to Arsène Wenger's grand gesture, and a tear rolled down my cheek. But I changed my mind, actually. Since no rule was actually broken, I decided that the referee was right and the goal should stand and, above all, Arsenal should not be allowed to look like good guys when they are actually bad guys. Scoring that goal was a bad-guy act and a *just outcome is that they* should live with it and hang their heads. Thus is the can of worms neatly avoided, for a start, and also all those bizarre knee-jerk allusions to Corinth, which presumably don't bear looking at either.

NETBALL

Essex enjoy double celebration

ESSEX Met won the Alex Barlass under-18 inter-county tournament for the first time since 1990 when they beat Surrey 14-7 yesterday (Cathy Harris writes). In a double celebration, both their under-18 and under-16 sides collected the trophies for the best defensive records.

Maria Fitzgerald and Nicola Darby shared the honours in the goalscoring, but the presence of Laura Hudson and Sarah Bowler, the England 2000 players, also proved to be decisive. In the under-16 section, the five England under-17 players in the South Durham and Cleveland squad helped their *team to a convincing* 23-8 victory over Birmingham.

Lizzie Thomas, 15, the goal-shooter, *made the most of her* 5ft 11in to score 14 goals, receiving excellent support from Vicky Phillips, Jill Mulrooney, Melissa Storey and Natalie Connor, her England teammates. Liz Broomhead, the chairman of the England selec*tors, said that* 100 players had been identified and would be invited to area coaching. "We found some talented individuals, especially from the West Country," she said.

Don't fall into the same trap

Devlin Barrett holds his non-giant foam hand up and says British ice hockey is more exciting than the NHL

Early in the first period of the Manchester v Ayr ice hockey game on Saturday night, Stefan Ketola, of Manchester, picked up a wonderful crossing pass and began rushing towards the Scottish Eagles' goalnet.

And rushing, and rushing, and rushing . . .

As a rabid American hockey fan from New York, I had gone to Manchester to see the Sekonda Superleague's top team in action and to get the pulse of the British pro game.

Watching Ketola's breakaway, I began to think that inaction might be a better word. Ketola, it seemed, took forever to reach the net. Starting out a full step ahead of the nearest defender, the syrupy Swede allowed the Scottish player to catch up.

I wanted to scream. Somebody get out there and give Ketola a push!

*He did reach the net, final*ly, but was unable to score on a play that had begun beautifully. Swelled with smug American pride, I was not very impressed.

I'd had my doubts from the moment I'd seen vendors hawking giant foam hands. Here, foam hands were like some strange *Star Wars* crea*ture. They had — horror! —* five fingers!

To my mind, the only giant foam hand that makes any sense has a single index finger raised in a point, so that you can wave it and scream over and over: "We're No 1! The one-fingered foam hand is as American as apple pie, seducing interns and bombing places that we can't pronounce. What were these British ice hockey fans trying to say? We're No 5? But a funny thing happened during my little reverie. The teams kept playing hockey, back and forth, shooting, passing, hitting with greater and greater intensity.

As a National Hockey League (NHL) fan, I'm ashamed to say I had not seen this in a long time.

In the millionaire pros, you see, they have a system called the "trap", and it is pure evil.

Imagine a football field half as wide as it should be and all the players jamming up the midfield playing defence only, never allowing the other team to get in scoring range but never letting your own team get there, either.

In the NHL, team owners hire the best of the world's talent, like "Russian Rocket" Pavel Bure for £3 million a *year, and throw them up* against the trap so they can do next to nothing.

But up in Manchester, no one was playing the trap. Just all-out, go-get 'em hockey.

Okay, so the players weren't as good as the NHL. The shots were weaker, the hitting *was inconsistent, and the skat*ing ... well, let's not talk about the skating.

But, in the absence of the trap, and a bigger, European-style ice surface, the *game* was much better than half of those played in the NHL on any given night — and more exciting. Both sides took chances, gambled and won, gambled and lost.

On Saturday night, it was Manchester's turn, winning 3-1 to go slightly ahead of Cardiff in the table, with only a handful of games to play.

Later, Kurt Kleinendorst, the Manchester coach, talked gleefully about the differences between the NHL and Sekonda Superleague. "Over there, there's no room to escape and generate some offense," he said. "Can you imagine Pavel Bure on this ice?"

Ever since he said that, I can't stop imagining it. A hockey nut like myself could easily go blind watching Bure unleashed on this surface.

*It's enough to make me for*get all about that rinky-dinky little league in the States.

MARTIN RICKETT



Eye of the storm: Darren Hurley, of Manchester, keeps a close watch on his side's progress from the bench

BASKETBALL

Decision angers Nemeth

By Nicholas Harling

PETER SCANTLEBURY, who thought that his days as an England player were over after *collecting a record* haul of 124 caps, has suddenly found himself a man in demand. So badly, *in fact, is the Sheffield* Sharks' forward required by Laszlo Nemeth, the national team coach, *that a club v coun*try confrontation has only narrowly been averted.

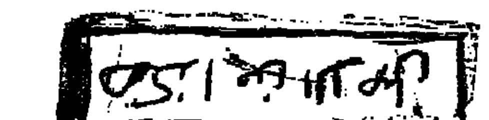
Dr Nemeth, who wants Scantlebury not only as his assistant coach but also as a player, invoked a rule of Fiba, the world governing body, obliging clubs to release players for internationals. England, who will prepare for the European championship qualifier against Belarus at Crystal Palace on February 24 with two games in Switzerland, wanted Scantlebury for all three internationals, which would have *meant him missing the* Sharks' vital Budweiser League encounter against London Towers next Sunday.

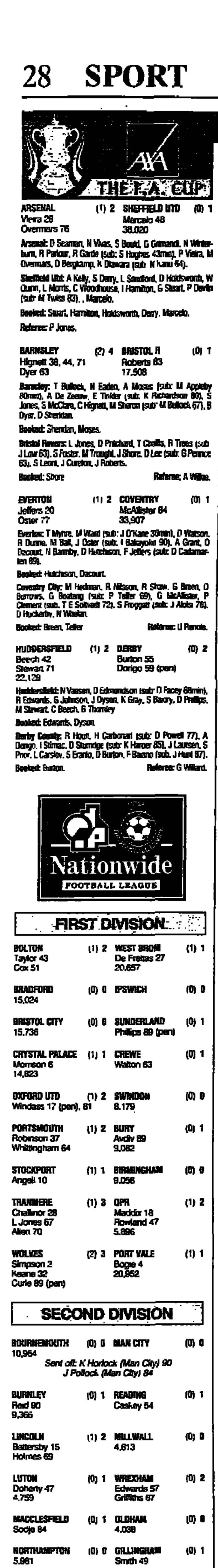
The argument was resolved last week after a compromise was reached between the Sharks and Simon Kirkland, the chief executive of the English Basket Ball Association. Scantlebury will play for the *Sharks before flying to Gene*va for the second of the two internationals in Nyon.

The compromise has not *pleased Dr Nemeth, however.* "Fiba dates are known five years in advance," he said. "It *wouldn't have taken a rocket* scientist to work out that the Sharks shouldn't have ar*ranged their game for the Sun*day."

Scantlebury sank eight points on *Saturday* when the Sharks maintained their push for the title with an enthralling 98-89 victory over Thames Valley Tigers at Bracknell. Trailing 18-12 to one of only two teams to have beaten them this season in the League, the Sharks then reeled off the next 13 points to indicate their resolve. The result was in doubt until the last three minutes, when Terrell Myers benefited *first from an unsportsmanlike* foul by Casey Arena and then from goalpending by Jason Siemon to add to two earlier significant three-pointers. When Myers then fouled Are*na, who missed all three free* throws, the Tigers knew that it was not going to be their day.

They had succumbed chiefly to Todd Cauthorn, who scored 26 points for the Sharks. Manchester Giants, the Sheffield side's only title rivals, also won at the weekend. Their 94-85 victory away to Worthing Bears, the bottom club, came with the help of 24 points from Tony Dorsey.





THE F.A. CUP

ARSENAL (1) 2 **SHEFFIELD UTD** (0) 1
Vieira 28 — Marcelo 48
Overmars 76 — 38,020

Arsenal: D Seaman, N Vivas, S Bould, G Grimandi, N Winterburn, R Parlour, R Garde (sub: S Hughes 43min), P Vieira, M Overmars, D Bergkamp, K Diawara (sub: N Kanu 64).

Sheffield Utd: A Kelly, S Derry, L Sandford, D Holdsworth, W Quinn, L Morris, C Woodhouse, I Hamilton, G Stuart, P Devlin (sub: M Twiss 83), Marcelo.

Booked: Stuart, Hamilton, Holdsworth, Derry, Marcelo.

Referee: P Jones.

BARNSLEY (2) 4 **BRISTOL R** (0) 1
Hignett 38, 44, 71 — Roberts 63
Dyer 63 — 17,508

Barnsley: T Bullock, N Eaden, A Moses (sub: M Appleby 80min), A De Zeeuw, E Tinkler (sub: K Richardson 80), S Jones, S McClare, C Hignett, M Sheron (sub: M Bullock 67), B Dyer, D Sheridan.

Booked: Sheridan, Moses.

Bristol Rovers: L Jones, D Pritchard, T Challis, R Trees (sub: J Low 63), S Foster, M Trought, J Shore, D Lee (sub: G Penrice 63), S Leoni, J Cureton, J Roberts.

Booked: Shore — Referee: A Wilkie.

EVERTON (1) 2 **COVENTRY** (0) 1
Jeffers 20 — McAllister 84
Oster 77 — 33,907

Everton: T Myhre, M Ward (sub: J O'Kane 30min), D Watson, R Dunne, M Ball, J Oster (sub: I Bakayoko 90), A Grant, O Dacourt, N Barmby, D Hutchison, F Jeffers (sub: D Cadamarteri 89).

Booked: Hutchison, Dacourt.

Coventry City: M Hedman, R Nilsson, R Shaw, G Breen, D Burrows, G Boateng (sub: P Telfer 69), G McAllister, P Clement (sub: T E Solvedt 72), S Froggatt (sub: J Aloisi 78), D Huckerby, N Whelan.

Booked: Breen, Telfer — Referee: U Rennie.

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 2 **DERBY** (0) 2
Beech 42 — Burton 55
Stewart 71 — Dorigo 59 (pen)
22,129

Huddersfield: N Vaesen, D Edmondson (sub: D Facey 68min), R Edwards, G Johnson, J Dyson, K Gray, S Baxry, D Phillips, M Stewart, C Beech, B Thornley.

Booked: Edwards, Dyson.

Derby County: R Hoult, H Carbonari (sub: D Powell 77), A Dorigo, I Stimac, D Sturridge (sub: K Harper 85), J Laursen, S Prior, L Carsley, S Eranio, D Burton, F Baiano (sub: J Hunt 87).

Booked: Burton — Referee: G Willard.

FIFTH ROUND

LEEDS (0) 1 **TOTTENHAM** (0) 1
Harte 73 — Sherwood 53
39,696

Leeds: N Martyn, D Wetherall, L Radebe, J Woodgate, A I Haaland (sub: W Korsten 84min), D Hopkin, L Bowyer, H Kewell, I Harte, J F Hasselbaink, A Smith.

Booked: Woodgate, Bowyer.

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, S Carr, L Young, S Campbell, J Edinburgh, S Freund, T Sherwood, D Anderton (sub: A Nielsen 82), D Ginola (sub: A Sinton 85), S Iversen, L Ferdinand.

Booked: Iversen, Ferdinand, Carr, Sherwood.

Referee: N Barry.

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 0 **CHELSEA** (0) 1
29,410 — Di Matteo 85

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, P Atherton, E Thome, D Walker, D Stefanovic, N Alexandersson, D Sonner (sub: M Agogo 90min), W Jonk, P Rudi (sub: L Briscoe 84), A Booth, B Carbone.

Booked: Atherton.

Chelsea: E De Goey, A Ferrer (sub: R Di Matteo 30), M Desailly, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux, D Petrescu, D Wise, J Morris (sub: B Goldbaek 81), C Babayaro, G Zola, G Vialli.

Referee: S Dunn.

Yesterday

MAN UTD (1) 1 **FULHAM** (0) 0
Cole 26 — 54,798

Manchester Utd: P Schmeichel, G Neville, J Stam, H Berg, D Irwin (sub: J Greening 46min), D Beckham, N Butt, P Neville, D Yorke, A Cole (sub: R Johnsen 88), O G Solskjaer (sub: J Blomqvist 65).

Fulham: M Taylor, S Finnan, R Brevett, C Coleman, K Symons, S Hayward, N Smith, W Collins (sub: G Uhlenbeek 87), J Salako (sub: P Trollope 74), D Lehmann (sub: K Betsy 59), B Hayles.

Referee: J Winter.

NEWCASTLE (0) 0 **BLACKBURN** (0) 0
36,295

Newcastle United: S Given, W Barton, L Charvet, S Howey, D Domi, D Hamann, N Solano, S Glass, G Speed (sub: G Brady 77min), T Ketsbaia, A Shearer.

Booked: Hamann.

Blackburn Rovers: J Filan, J Kenna, D Peacock, M Broomes, G Croft, K Gillespie, D Dunn (sub: O Konde 58), D Marcolin, D Duff (sub: N Blake 51), A Ward, C Sutton.

Booked: Sutton.

Referee: D Gallagher.

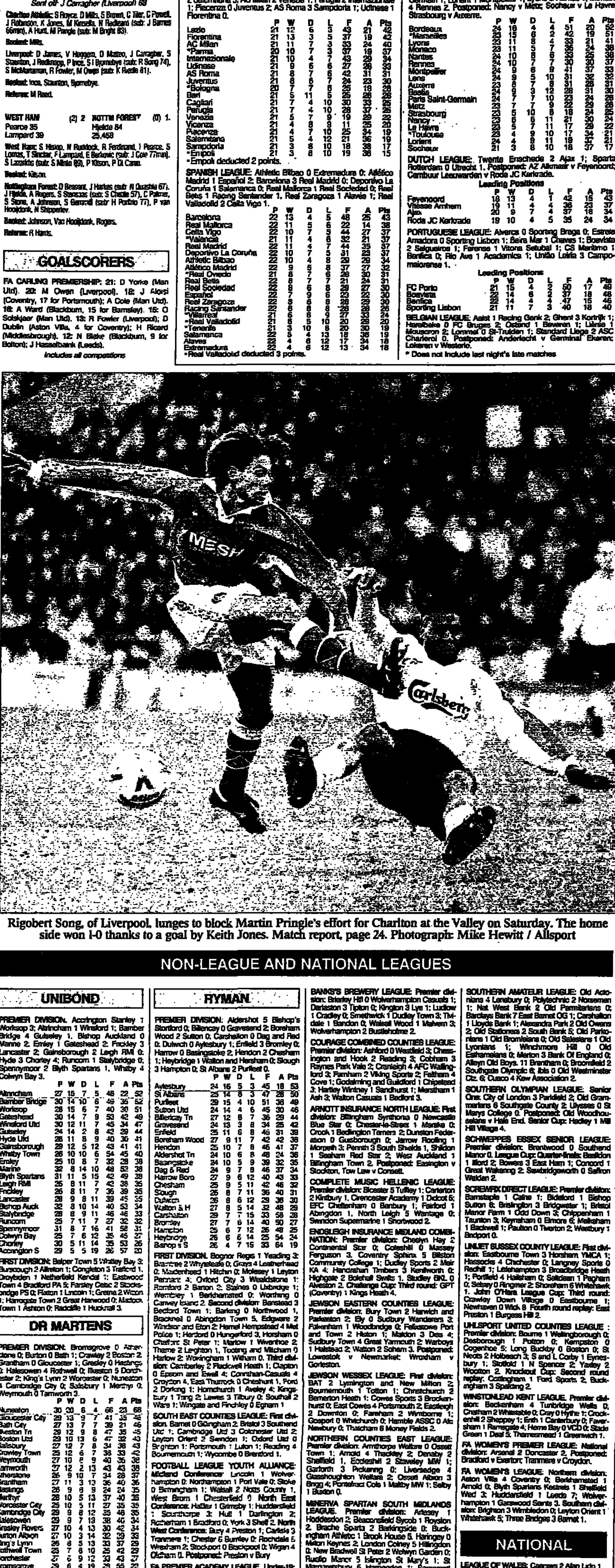
FA CUP FIFTH-ROUND REPLAYS: Tottenham v Leeds, Derby v Huddersfield, Blackburn v Newcastle.

Ties to be played Wednesday 24 February.

FA CUP FIFTH-ROUND RE-MATCH: Arsenal v Sheffield Utd.

Tie to be played Tuesday 23 February.

All games kick off 7.45pm.



FA PREMIERSHIP

CHARLTON (0) 1 **LIVERPOOL** (0) 0
K Jones 70 — 20,043
Sent off: J Carragher (Liverpool) 69

Charlton Athletic: S Royce, D Mills, S Brown, C Tiler, C Powell, J Robinson, K Jones, M Kinsella, N Redfearn (sub: J Barnes 66min), A Hunt, M Pringle (sub: M Bright 83).

Booked: Mills.

Liverpool: D James, V Heggem, D Matteo, J Carragher, S Staunton, J Redknapp, P Ince, S I Bjornebye (sub: R Song 74), S McManaman, R Fowler, M Owen (sub: K Riedle 81).

Booked: Ince, Staunton, Bjornebye.

Referee: M Reed.

WEST HAM (2) 2 **NOTTM FOREST** (0) 1
Pearce 35 — Hjelde 84
Lampard 39 — 25,458

West Ham: S Hislop, N Ruddock, R Ferdinand, I Pearce, S Lomas, T Sinclair, F Lampard, E Berkovic (sub: J Cole 77min), S Lazaridis (sub: S Minto 89), P Kitson, P Di Canio.

Booked: Kitson.

Nottingham Forest: D Beasant, J Harkes (sub: N Quashie 67), J Hjelde, A Rogers, S Stensaas (sub: S Chettle 57), C Palmer, S Stone, A Johnson, S Gemmill (sub: H Porfirio 77), P van Hooijdonk, N Shipperley.

Booked: Johnson, Van Hooijdonk, Rogers.

Referee: R Harris.

GOALSCORERS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: 21: D Yorke (Man Utd). 20: M Owen (Liverpool). 18: J Aloisi (Coventry, 17 for Portsmouth); A Cole (Man Utd). 16: A Ward (Blackburn, 15 for Barnsley). 15: O Solskjaer (Man Utd). 13: R Fowler (Liverpool); D Dublin (Aston Villa, 4 for Coventry); H Ricard (Middlesbrough). 12: N Blake (Blackburn, 9 for Bolton); J Hasselbaink (Leeds).

Includes all competitions

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Bari 0 Vicenza 0; Cagliari 0 Lazio 0; Empoli 2 Salernitana 3; AC Milan 2 Venezia 1; Perugia 2 Internazionale 1; Piacenza 0 Juventus 2; AS Roma 3 Sampdoria 1; Udinese 1 Fiorentina 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	21	12	6	3	43	21	42
Fiorentina	21	13	3	5	37	19	42
AC Milan	21	11	7	3	33	24	40
*Parma	20	10	7	3	37	19	37
Internazionale	21	10	4	7	43	29	34
Udinese	21	9	6	6	27	28	33
AS Roma	21	8	7	6	42	31	31
Juventus	21	8	6	7	24	23	30
*Bologna	20	7	7	6	25	19	28
Bari	21	5	11	5	25	28	26
Cagliari	21	7	4	10	30	33	25
Perugia	21	7	4	10	28	37	25
Venezia	21	5	7	9	19	29	22
Vicenza	21	4	8	9	11	25	20
Piacenza	21	4	7	10	25	34	19
Salernitana	21	5	4	12	21	36	19
Sampdoria	21	3	8	10	18	38	17
•Empoli	21	3	8	10	19	36	15

•Empoli deducted 2 points.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Athletic Bilbao 0 Extremadura 0; Atlético Madrid 1 Español 2; Barcelona 3 Real Madrid 0; Deportivo La Coruña 1 Salamanca 0; Real Mallorca 1 Real Sociedad 0; Real Betis 1 Racing Santander 1, Real Zaragoza 1 Alavés 1; Real Valladolid 2 Celta Vigo 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	22	13	4	5	48	25	43
Real Mallorca	22	11	5	6	22	14	38
Celta Vigo	22	10	7	5	44	27	37
*Valencia	21	11	4	6	32	21	37
Real Madrid	22	11	4	7	44	35	37
Deportivo La Coruña	22	10	7	5	31	23	37
Athletic Bilbao	22	10	4	8	29	29	34
Atlético Madrid	22	9	5	8	37	27	32
*Real Oviedo	21	8	7	6	28	30	31
Real Betis	22	8	7	7	21	24	31
Real Sociedad	22	8	6	8	29	27	30
Español	22	7	9	6	23	22	30
Real Zaragoza	22	8	6	8	28	29	30
Racing Santander	22	6	8	8	26	28	26
*Villarreal	21	6	6	9	27	33	24
•Real Valladolid	21	6	5	10	20	29	20
*Tenerife	21	3	10	8	20	30	19
Salamanca	22	5	4	13	18	36	19
Alaves	22	4	6	12	17	34	18
Extremadura	22	4	6	12	13	34	18

•Real Valladolid deducted 3 points.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Bordeaux 2 Bastia 0; Lens 2 Paris Saint-Germain 1; Lorient 1 Montpellier 1; Lyons 2 Nantes 1; Monaco 4 Rennes 2. Postponed: Nancy v Metz; Sochaux v Le Havre; Strasbourg v Auxerre.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bordeaux	24	16	4	4	51	20	52
*Marseilles	23	15	6	2	42	19	51
Lyons	23	11	8	4	33	21	41
Monaco	23	11	5	7	36	24	38
Nantes	24	10	8	6	33	25	38
Rennes	24	10	7	7	30	30	37
Montpellier	24	9	6	9	41	37	33
Lens	24	9	5	10	31	32	32
Auxerre	23	8	7	8	31	28	31
Bastia	24	9	3	12	28	31	30
Paris Saint-Germain	24	7	7	10	23	24	28
Metz	23	7	7	9	22	29	28
Strasbourg	23	5	10	8	18	24	25
Nancy	23	6	6	11	21	30	24
Le Havre	23	5	7	11	17	29	22
*Toulouse	23	4	9	10	17	34	21
Lorient	24	4	9	11	18	37	21
Sochaux	21	3	8	10	18	37	17

DUTCH LEAGUE: Twente Enschede 2 Ajax 1; Sparta Rotterdam 0 Utrecht 1. Postponed: AZ Alkmaar v Feyenoord; Cambuur Leeuwarden v Roda JC Kerkrade.

Leading Positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	18	13	4	1	42	15	43
Vitesse Arnhem	19	11	4	4	36	23	37
Ajax	20	9	7	4	37	18	34
Roda JC Kerkrade	19	10	4	5	35	24	34

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Alverca 0 Sporting Braga 0; Estrela Amadora 0 Sporting Lisbon 1; Beira Mar 1 Chaves 1; Boavista 2 Salgueiros 1; Farense 1 Vitoria Setubal 1; CS Maritimo 1 Benfica 0; Rio Ave 1 Academica 1; União Leiria 3 Campomaiorense 1.

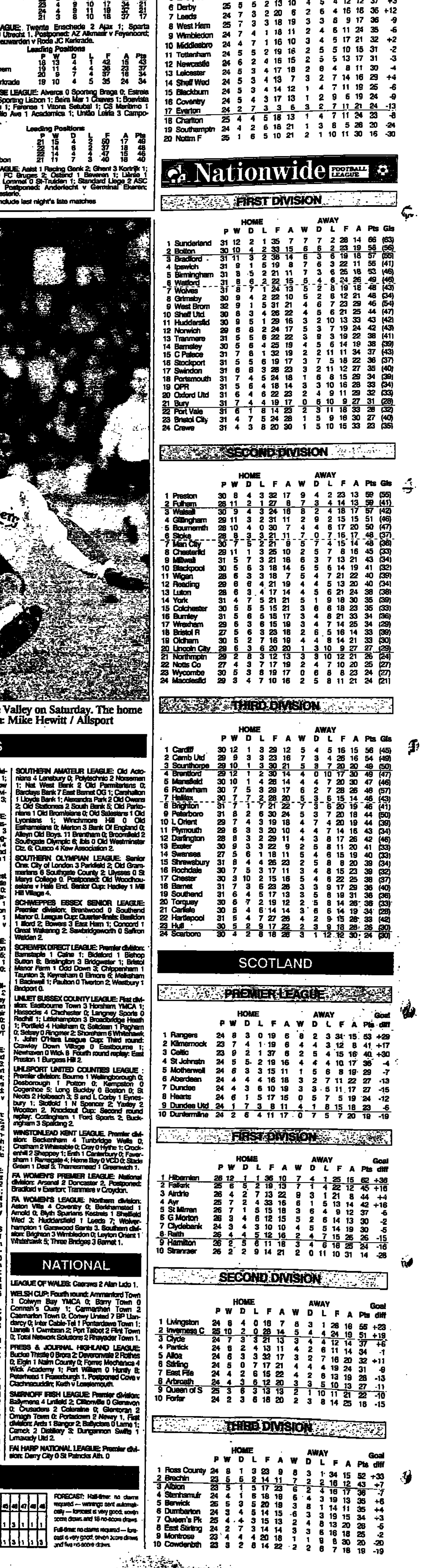
Leading Positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	21	15	4	2	50	17	49
Boavista	22	14	6	2	37	18	48
Benfica	22	14	4	4	47	15	46
Sporting Lisbon	21	11	7	3	40	18	40

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Aalst 1 Racing Genk 2; Ghent 3 Kortrijk 1; Harelbeke 0 FC Bruges 2; Ostend 1 Beveren 1; Lierse 1 Mouscron 2; Lommel 0 St-Truiden 1; Standard Liege 2 ASC Charleroi 0. Postponed: Anderlecht v Germinal Ekeren; Lokeren v Westerlo.

* Does not include last night's late matches

Rigobert Song, of Liverpool, lunges to block Martin Pringle's effort for Charlton at the Valley on Saturday. The home side won 1-0 thanks to a goal by Keith Jones. Match report, page 24. Photograph: Mike Hewitt / Allsport



CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Man Utd	25	9	3	1	32	13	5	5	2	27	14	50	+32
2 Chelsea	24	8	4	0	16	6	4	6	2	17	13	46	+16
3 Arsenal	24	7	5	0	16	4	5	4	3	12	7	45	+17
4 Aston Villa	24	8	2	2	23	15	4	5	3	13	10	43	+11
5 Liverpool	25	7	3	2	31	14	4	2	7	16	16	38	+17
6 Derby	25	5	5	2	13	10	4	5	4	12	12	37	+3
7 Leeds	24	7	3	2	20	6	2	6	4	16	18	36	+12
8 West Ham	25	7	3	3	18	19	3	3	6	9	17	36	-9
9 Wimbledon	24	7	4	1	18	11	2	4	6	11	24	35	-6
10 Middlesbro	24	4	7	1	16	10	3	4	5	17	21	32	+2
11 Tottenham	24	5	5	2	19	16	2	5	5	10	15	31	-2
12 Newcastle	24	6	2	4	16	15	2	5	5	13	17	31	-3
13 Leicester	24	5	3	4	17	18	2	6	4	8	11	30	-4
14 Shelf Wed	24	5	3	4	13	7	3	2	7	14	16	29	+4
15 Blackburn	24	5	3	4	14	12	1	4	7	11	19	25	-6
16 Coventry	24	5	4	3	17	13	1	2	9	6	19	24	-9
17 Everton	24	2	7	3	3	6	3	2	7	11	21	24	-13
18 Charlton	25	4	4	5	18	13	1	4	7	11	24	23	-8
19 Southamptn	24	4	2	6	18	21	1	3	8	5	26	20	-24
20 Nottm F	25	1	6	5	10	21	2	1	10	11	30	16	-30

Nationwide Football League

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Sunderland	31	12	2	1	35	7	7	7	2	28	14	66	(63)
2 Bolton	30	10	4	2	33	15	6	6	2	23	19	58	(56)
3 Bradford	31	11	3	2	36	14	6	3	6	19	18	57	(55)
4 Ipswich	31	9	1	5	19	8	7	6	3	22	11	55	(41)
5 Birmingham	31	8	5	2	21	11	7	3	6	25	18	53	(46)
6 Watford	31	8	6	2	22	15	5	4	6	24	26	49	(46)
7 Wolves	31	8	7	1	24	13	5	2	8	19	18	48	(43)
8 Grimsby	30	9	4	2	22	10	5	2	8	12	21	48	(34)
9 West Brom	32	9	1	5	31	21	4	6	7	23	29	46	(54)
10 Sheff Utd	30	8	3	4	26	22	4	5	6	21	25	44	(47)
11 Huddersfld	30	9	5	1	29	16	3	2	10	13	33	43	(42)
12 Norwich	29	6	6	2	24	17	5	3	7	19	24	42	(43)
13 Tranmere	31	5	5	6	22	22	3	9	3	19	22	38	(41)
14 Barnsley	30	5	6	4	25	19	4	5	6	14	19	38	(39)
15 C Palace	31	7	8	1	32	19	2	2	11	11	34	37	(43)
16 Stockport	31	5	5	6	19	17	3	7	5	18	22	36	(37)
17 Swindon	31	6	6	3	28	23	3	2	11	12	27	35	(40)
18 Portsmouth	31	7	4	5	24	18	1	6	8	15	29	34	(39)
19 QPR	31	5	6	4	18	14	3	3	10	16	28	33	(34)
20 Oxford Utd	31	6	4	6	22	23	2	4	9	11	29	32	(33)
21 Bury	31	7	4	4	19	17	0	6	10	9	27	31	(28)
22 Port Vale	31	6	1	8	14	23	2	3	11	18	33	28	(32)
23 Bristol City	31	4	7	5	24	28	1	5	9	16	30	27	(40)
24 Crewe	31	4	3	8	20	30	1	5	10	15	33	23	(35)

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Preston	30	8	4	3	32	17	9	4	2	23	13	59	(55)
2 Fulham	28	11	2	1	27	8	7	3	4	14	13	59	(41)
3 Walsall	30	9	4	3	24	16	8	2	4	18	17	57	(42)
4 Gillingham	29	11	3	2	31	11	2	9	2	15	15	51	(46)
5 Bournemth	28	10	4	0	30	7	4	4	6	17	20	50	(47)
6 Stoke	28	8	3	3	21	11	7	0	7	16	17	48	(37)
7 Man City	30	7	5	2	21	8	5	7	4	15	14	48	(36)
8 Chesterfld	29	11	1	3	25	10	2	5	7	8	16	45	(33)
9 Millwall	31	5	7	3	21	16	6	3	7	13	21	43	(34)
10 Blackpool	30	5	6	3	18	14	5	5	6	14	19	41	(32)
11 Wigan	28	6	3	3	18	7	5	4	7	21	22	40	(39)
12 Reading	29	6	6	4	21	19	4	4	5	13	20	40	(34)
13 Luton	28	6	3	4	17	14	4	5	6	21	24	38	(38)
14 York	31	4	7	5	21	21	5	1	9	18	30	35	(39)
15 Colchester	30	5	5	5	15	21	3	6	6	18	23	35	(33)
16 Burnley	31	5	6	5	15	17	3	4	8	21	33	34	(36)
17 Wrexham	29	6	3	6	15	18	3	4	7	14	25	34	(29)
18 Bristol R	27	5	6	3	23	18	2	6	5	16	14	33	(39)
19 Oldham	30	5	2	7	16	18	4	4	8	14	21	33	(30)
20 Lincoln City	29	6	3	6	20	20	1	3	10	9	27	27	(29)
21 Northmptn	29	2	8	3	12	13	3	3	10	12	21	26	(24)
22 Notts Co	27	4	3	7	17	19	2	4	7	10	20	25	(27)
23 Wycombe	30	5	3	8	19	17	0	6	8	8	23	24	(27)
24 Macclesfld	29	3	4	7	10	16	2	5	8	11	21	24	(21)

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Cardiff	30	12	1	3	29	12	5	4	5	16	15	56	(45)
2 Camb Utd	29	9	3	3	23	16	7	3	4	26	16	54	(49)
3 Scunthorpe	29	10	1	3	30	21	5	3	7	20	20	49	(50)
4 Brentford	29	12	1	2	30	14	4	0	10	17	30	49	(47)
5 Mansfield	30	10	1	4	26	14	4	4	7	20	30	47	(46)
6 Rotherham	30	7	5	3	29	17	6	2	7	28	26	46	(57)
7 Halifax	30	7	7	2	28	20	5	3	6	15	14	46	(43)
8 Brighton	31	7	1	7	21	22	7	3	6	20	19	46	(41)
9 Peterboro	31	8	2	6	30	24	5	3	7	20	18	44	(50)
10 L Orient	29	7	4	3	19	18	4	7	4	20	19	44	(39)
11 Plymouth	29	8	3	3	20	10	4	4	7	14	16	43	(34)
12 Darlington	28	8	3	2	29	11	4	3	8	17	26	42	(46)
13 Exeter	30	9	3	3	22	9	2	5	8	11	20	41	(33)
14 Swansea	27	5	6	1	18	11	5	4	6	15	19	40	(33)
15 Shrewsbury	31	8	4	4	26	23	2	5	8	8	20	39	(34)
16 Rochdale	30	7	5	3	17	11	3	4	8	15	23	39	(32)
17 Chester	30	3	10	2	15	16	5	4	6	22	25	38	(37)
18 Barnet	31	7	3	6	23	28	3	3	9	17	29	36	(40)
19 Southend	31	6	4	5	17	13	3	5	8	19	31	36	(36)
20 Torquay	30	6	7	2	19	12	2	5	8	14	26	36	(33)
21 Carlisle	30	5	4	6	14	14	3	6	6	14	19	34	(28)
22 Hartlepool	31	5	4	7	27	26	4	2	9	15	28	33	(42)
23 Hull	30	5	2	9	17	22	2	3	9	13	28	26	(30)
24 Scarboro	30	4	2	8	18	28	3	1	12	12	30	24	(30)

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Rangers	24	8	3	0	19	6	8	2	3	31	15	53	+29
2 Kilmarnock	23	7	4	1	19	6	4	4	3	12	8	41	+17
3 Celtic	23	9	2	1	37	6	2	5	4	15	16	40	+30
4 St Johnstn	24	5	5	2	19	16	4	4	4	10	17	36	-4
5 Motherwell	24	6	3	3	15	11	1	5	6	8	19	29	-7
6 Aberdeen	24	4	4	4	16	18	3	2	7	11	22	27	-13
7 Dundee	24	4	3	6	10	19	3	3	5	11	17	27	-15
8 Hearts	24	6	1	5	17	15	0	5	7	5	19	24	-12
9 Dundee Utd	24	1	7	3	8	11	4	1	8	15	18	23	-6
10 Dunfermline	24	2	6	4	11	17	0	7	5	7	20	19	-19

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Hibernian	26	12	1	1	36	10	7	4	1	25	15	62	+36
2 Falkirk	25	6	5	2	19	13	7	1	4	22	12	45	+16
3 Airdrie	26	4	2	7	13	22	9	3	1	21	8	44	+4
4 Ayr	25	7	2	4	33	16	6	1	5	13	14	42	+16
5 St Mirren	26	7	1	5	15	18	3	6	4	9	12	37	-6
6 G Morton	26	3	4	6	12	15	5	2	6	14	13	30	-2
7 Clydebank	24	3	4	3	10	10	4	5	5	14	19	30	-5
8 Raith	26	4	4	5	12	16	2	4	7	15	26	26	-15
9 Hamilton	26	2	5	6	11	18	3	4	6	16	25	24	-16
10 Stranraer	26	2	2	9	14	21	2	0	11	10	31	14	-28

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Livingston	24	8	4	0	18	7	8	3	1	28	16	55	+23
2 Inverness C	25	10	2	0	28	14	5	4	4	24	19	51	+19
3 Clyde	24	7	3	3	21	13	3	4	4	12	14	37	+6
4 Partick	24	6	2	4	13	11	4	2	6	11	14	34	-1
5 Alloa	24	6	3	3	32	17	3	2	7	16	20	32	+11
6 Stirling	24	5	0	7	17	21	4	4	4	19	24	31	-9
7 East Fife	24	4	2	6	15	22	4	2	6	13	19	28	-13
8 Arbroath	24	4	3	6	12	20	3	3	5	10	13	27	-11
9 Queen of S	25	3	6	3	13	13	2	1	10	11	21	22	-10
10 Forfar	24	2	3	6	18	20	2	3	8	14	25	18	-15

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Ross County	24	8	1	3	23	9	8	3	1	34	15	52	+33
2 Brechin	23	5	5	2	14	11	7	2	2	16	12	43	+7
3 Albion	23	5	1	5	17	23	6	2	4	16	17	36	-7
4 Stenhsmuir	24	4	1	6	18	18	6	4	3	19	13	35	+6
5 Berwick	25	5	3	5	20	19	3	8	1	14	11	35	+4
6 Dumbarton	24	3	4	5	14	15	6	3	3	19	15	34	+3
7 Queen's Pk	25	4	4	3	15	13	2	4	8	13	20	26	-5
8 East Stirling	24	2	7	3	14	14	3	3	6	16	18	25	-2
9 Montrose	23	4	4	4	20	18	1	1	9	8	30	20	-20
10 Cowdenbth	23	3	2	8	14	22	2	2	6	7	18	19	-19

Nationwide Football League

FIRST DIVISION

BOLTON (1) 2 **WEST BROM** (1) 1
Taylor 43 — De Freitas 27
Cox 51 — 20,657

BRADFORD (0) 0 **IPSWICH** (0) 0
15,024

BRISTOL CITY (0) 0 **SUNDERLAND** (0) 1
15,736 — Phillips 89 (pen)

CRYSTAL PALACE (1) 1 **CREWE** (0) 1
Morrison 6 — Walton 63
14,823

OXFORD UTD (1) 2 **SWINDON** (0) 0
Windass 17 (pen), 81 — 8,179

PORTSMOUTH (1) 2 **BURY** (0) 1
Robinson 37 — Avdiv 89
Whittingham 64 — 9,082

STOCKPORT (1) 1 **BIRMINGHAM** (0) 0
Angell 10 — 9,056

TRANMERE (1) 3 **QPR** (1) 2
Challinor 28 — Maddix 18
L Jones 67 — Rowland 47
Allen 70 — 5,896

WOLVES (2) 3 **PORT VALE** (1) 1
Simpson 2 — Bogie 4
Keane 32 — 20,952
Curle 89 (pen)

SECOND DIVISION

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0 **MAN CITY** (0) 0
10,964
Sent off: K Horlock (Man City) 90
J Pollock (Man City) 84

BURNLEY (0) 1 **READING** (0) 1
Reid 90 — Caskey 54
9,366

LINCOLN (1) 2 **MILLWALL** (0) 0
Battersby 15 — 4,613
Holmes 69

LUTON (0) 1 **WREXHAM** (0) 2
Doherty 47 — Edwards 57
4,759 — Griffiths 67

MACCLESFIELD (0) 1 **OLDHAM** (0) 0
Sodje 84 — 4,038

NORTHAMPTON (0) 0 **GILLINGHAM** (0) 1
5,981 — Smith 49

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 0 **BLACKPOOL** (1) 1
4,778 — Bushell 5

PRESTON (1) 2 **WYCOMBE** (1) 1
Basham 9, 81 — Cornforth 17 (pen)
10,686

YORK (0) 1 **WALSALL** (1) 2
Cresswell 73 — Wrack 3
2,969 — Watson 51

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Colchester 2 Wigan 1.

THIRD DIVISION

BARNET (0) 1 **CARDIFF** (0) 0
Searle 70 — 2,234

BRENTFORD (1) 3 **TORQUAY** (1) 2
Owusu 20 — Healy 24
Bryan 62 — MacFarlane 81
Hreidarsson 90 — 4,299

BRIGHTON (0) 0 **EXETER** (0) 1
4,005 — Rowbotham 64
Sent off: G Hart (Brighton) 82

CAMBRIDGE U (0) 0 **SCUNTHORPE** (0) 0
5,596
Sent off: T Witter (Scunthorpe) 90

CHESTER (1) 1 **PETERBOROUGH** (0) 0
Murphy 26 — 2,087
Sent off: S Reid (Chester) 32
D Hooper (Peterborough) 87

HALIFAX (0) 3 **SOUTHEND** (0) 1
Hulme 49 — Rapley 55
Power 50, 90 — 2,302

HARTLEPOOL (0) 2 **DARLINGTON** (2) 3
Irvine 71 — Bennett 2
Miller 20 — Gabbiadini 18
3,990 — Duffield 60

MANSFIELD (1) 1 **LEYTON ORIENT** (1) 2
Peacock 21 — Ling 37
2,817 — Richards 68

PLYMOUTH (0) 1 **ROTHERHAM** (0) 0
Marshall 59 — 4,336

SHREWSBURY (1) 3 **SCARBOROUGH** (0) 1
Steele 27 — Brodie 58
Kerrigan 65 — 2,378
Preece 85

SWANSEA (0) 1 **CARLISLE** (0) 1
Roberts 55 — Boertien 75
4,753

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Rochdale 3 Hull 0.

SCOTLAND

TENNENT'S CUP FOURTH RND

AYR (0) 1 **ALBION** (0) 0
Teale 77 — 3,229

CELTIC (4) 4 **DUNFERMLINE** (0) 0
Larsson 26, 31 (pen), 41 — 47,194
Brattbakk 38

GK MORTON (3) 6 **CLYDE** (0) 1
Anderson 15 — McCusker 56
Thomas 27, 50 (pen) — 3,243
Archdeacon 40
Twaddle 71, 75
Sent off: B Smith (Clyde) 39

LIVINGSTON (0) 1 **ST JOHNSTONE** (2) 3
Robertson 85 — Grant 18, 59
5,700 — Scott 40

MOTHERWELL (0) 2 **STIRLING** (0) 0
McCulloch 63 — 7,244
Forest 86 (og)

STRANRAER (0) 1 **FALKIRK** (1) 2
Friels 87 — Moss 25, 64
1,582

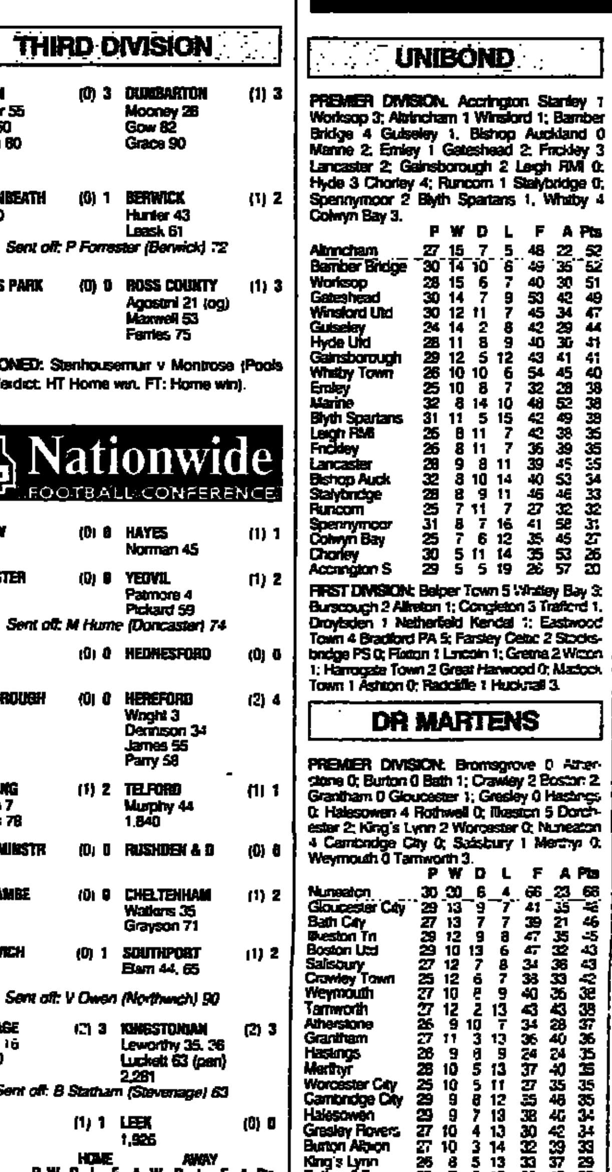
YESTERDAY

HAMILTON (0) 0 **RANGERS** (2) 6
7,339 — Johansson 4, 72
Albertz 42 (pen)
Vidmar 56
Kanchelskis 65
McCann 75

SECOND DIVISION

INVERNESS C (0) 1 **QUEEN OF SOUTH** (0) 0
Rowe 73 (og) — 2,204
Sent off: J Thomson (Queen of South) 85

POSTPONED: Forfar v East Fife (Pools Panel Verdict: HT No score draw. FT: Home win).



THIRD DIVISION

BRECHIN (0) 3 **DUMBARTON** (1) 3
McKellar 55 — Mooney 28
Sorbie 60 — Gow 82
Dickson 80 — Grace 90
360

COWDENBEATH (0) 1 **BERWICK** (1) 2
Milne 70 — Hunter 43
326 — Leask 61
Sent off: P Forrester (Berwick) 72

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 0 **ROSS COUNTY** (1) 3
631 — Agostini 21 (og)
Maxwell 53
Ferries 75

POSTPONED: Stenhousemuir v Montrose (Pools Panel Verdict: HT Home win. FT: Home win).

Nationwide Football Conference

BARROW (0) 0 **HAYES** (1) 1
1,518 — Norman 45

DONCASTER (0) 0 **YEOVIL** (1) 2
4,413 — Patmore 4
Pickard 59
Sent off: M Hume (Doncaster) 74

DOVER (0) 0 **HEDNESFORD** (0) 0
1,126

FARNBOROUGH (0) 0 **HEREFORD** (2) 4
795 — Wright 3
Dennison 34
James 55
Parry 58

KETTERING (1) 2 **TELFORD** (1) 1
Vowden 7 — Murphy 44
Williams 78 — 1,840

KIDDERMINSTR (0) 0 **RUSHDEN & D** (0) 0
2,337

MORECAMBE (0) 0 **CHELTENHAM** (1) 2
1,354 — Watkins 35
Grayson 71

NORTHWICH (0) 1 **SOUTHPORT** (1) 2
Tait 46 — Elam 44, 65
1,628
Sent off: V Owen (Northwich) 90

STEVENAGE (2) 3 **KINGSTONIAN** (2) 3
Pearson 16 — Leworthy 35, 36
Alford 20 — Luckett 63 (pen)
Love 74 — 2,281
Sent off: B Statham (Stevenage) 63

WOKING (1) 1 **LEEK** (0) 0
Hay 12 — 1,925

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kettering	30	10	3	4	25	12	7	3	3	19	10	57
Cheltenham	27	7	5	1	24	9	9	3	2	25	11	56
Yeovil	26	5	3	5	24	22	7	6	0	18	10	45
Dover	29	6	6	3	20	13	6	3	5	20	19	45
Hayes	27	7	1	5	18	15	7	2	5	20	21	45
Rushden	25	6	2	3	24	12	6	5	2	19	10	44
Stevenage	26	6	8	1	24	16	5	2	4	10	10	43
Hednesford	27	7	5	2	20	14	3	7	3	13	13	42
Kingstonian	26	5	6	2	18	14	5	5	3	19	21	41
Northwich	28	7	2	5	18	14	4	5	5	14	17	40
Hereford	28	5	3	5	13	12	5	3	7	20	20	36
Morecambe	30	6	5	4	25	20	4	1	10	21	39	36
Kidderminstr	27	7	2	6	21	14	2	4	6	14	16	33
Woking	25	5	3	5	14	15	4	2	6	13	14	32
Forest Green	24	5	1	4	15	13	3	5	5	19	18	31
Leek Town	27	5	3	4	25	19	3	2	10	12	21	29
Doncaster	28	4	3	6	15	18	3	5	7	17	22	29
Telford	28	3	6	5	14	20	3	4	7	15	27	28
Southport	25	3	4	5	18	22	3	5	5	13	19	27
Barrow	29	5	4	7	12	16	2	2	9	15	29	27
Welling	28	2	6	6	9	17	3	3	8	15	26	24
Farnborough	28	5	2	7	22	34	1	4	9	8	26	24

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Accrington Stanley 1 Worksop 3; Altrincham 1 Winsford 1; Bamber Bridge 4 Guiseley 1; Bishop Auckland 0 Marine 2; Emley 1 Gateshead 2; Frickley 3 Lancaster 2; Gainsborough 2 Leigh RMI 0; Hyde 3 Chorley 4; Runcorn 1 Stalybridge 0; Spennymoor 2 Blyth Spartans 1; Whitby 4 Colwyn Bay 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Altrincham	27	15	7	5	48	22	52
Bamber Bridge	30	14	10	6	49	35	52
Worksop	28	15	6	7	40	30	51
Gateshead	30	14	7	9	53	42	49
Winsford Utd	30	12	11	7	45	34	47
Guiseley	24	14	2	8	42	29	44
Hyde Utd	28	11	8	9	40	30	41
Gainsborough	29	12	5	12	43	41	41
Whitby Town	26	10	10	6	54	45	40
Emley	25	10	8	7	32	28	38
Marine	32	8	14	10	48	52	38
Blyth Spartans	31	11	5	15	42	49	38
Leigh RMI	26	8	11	7	42	38	35
Frickley	26	8	11	7	36	39	35
Lancaster	28	9	8	11	39	45	35
Bishop Auck	32	8	10	14	40	53	34
Stalybridge	28	8	9	11	46	46	33
Runcorn	25	7	11	7	27	32	32
Spennymoor	31	8	7	16	41	58	31
Colwyn Bay	25	7	6	12	35	45	27
Chorley	30	5	11	14	35	53	26
Accrington S	29	5	5	19	26	57	20

FIRST DIVISION: Belper Town 5 Whitley Bay 3; Burscough 2 Alfreton 1; Congleton 3 Trafford 1; Droylsden 1 Netherfield Kendal 1; Eastwood Town 4 Bradford PA 5; Farsley Celtic 2 Stocksbridge PS 0; Flixton 1 Lincoln 1; Gretna 2 Witton 1; Harrogate Town 2 Great Harwood 0; Matlock Town 1 Ashton 0; Radcliffe 1 Hucknall 3.

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Bromsgrove 0 Atherstone 0; Burton 0 Bath 1; Crawley 2 Boston 2; Grantham 0 Gloucester 1; Gresley 0 Hastings 0; Halesowen 4 Rothwell 0; Ilkeston 5 Dorchester 2; King's Lynn 2 Worcester 0; Nuneaton 4 Cambridge City 0; Salisbury 1 Merthyr 0; Weymouth 0 Tamworth 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton	30	20	6	4	66	23	66
Gloucester City	29	13	9	7	41	35	48
Bath City	27	13	7	7	39	21	46
Ilkeston Tn	29	12	9	8	47	35	45
Boston Utd	29	10	13	6	47	32	43
Salisbury	27	12	7	8	34	36	43
Crawley Town	25	12	6	7	38	33	42
Weymouth	27	10	8	9	40	36	38
Tamworth	27	12	2	13	43	43	38
Atherstone	26	9	10	7	34	28	37
Grantham	27	11	3	13	36	40	36
Hastings	26	9	8	9	24	24	35
Merthyr	28	10	5	13	37	40	35
Worcester City	25	10	5	11	27	35	35
Cambridge City	29	9	8	12	35	46	35
Halesowen	29	9	7	13	38	46	34
Gresley Rovers	27	10	4	13	30	42	34
Burton Albion	27	10	3	14	32	39	33
King's Lynn	26	8	5	13	33	37	29
Rothwell Town	25	7	8	10	25	42	29
Dorchester	27	6	9	12	33	43	27
Bromsgrove	29	6	4	19	29	55	22

MIDLAND DIVISION: Bloxwich 0 Bedworth 5; Cinderford 2 Blakenall 2; Hinckley 1 Weston-super-Mare 1; RC Warwick 0 Wisbech 3; Shepshed Dynamo 2 Evesham 2; Solihull Boro 1 Bilston 1; Stafford 5 Stamford AFC 1; Stourbridge 1 Clevedon 2; VS Rugby 2 Paget 1. Southern division: Ashford 0 Yate 0; Baldock 0 Folkestone Invicta 3; Brackley 1 Cirencester 3; Corby 0 Tonbridge Angels 1; Fisher London 4 Erith and Belvedere 1; Margate 2 Chelmsford 2; Newport IoW 2 Witney 0; Raunds 4 Fleet 0; Sittingbourne 1 Bashley 0; St Leonards 0 Havant and Waterlooville 4.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries 0 Mossley 3; Bootle 3 Glossop North End 1; Kidsgrove 3 Salford 2; Leek CSOB 5 Rossendale 2; Maine Road 3 Holker Old Boys 0; Nantwich 0 Newcastle Town 2; Ramsbottom 1 Skelmersdale 3; Vauxhall G M 3 Atherton LR 0; Workington 3 Prescot Cables 1. League Cup: Third round: St Helens 1 Clitheroe 1 (1-1 aet).

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Aldershot 5 Bishop's Stortford 0; Billericay 0 Gravesend 2; Boreham Wood 2 Sutton 0; Carshalton 0 Dag and Red 0; Dulwich 0 Aylesbury 1; Enfield 3 Bromley 0; Harrow 0 Basingstoke 2; Hendon 2 Chesham 1; Heybridge 1 Walton and Hersham 0; Slough 3 Hampton 0; St Albans 2 Purfleet 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aylesbury	24	16	5	3	45	18	53
St Albans	25	14	8	3	47	28	50
Purfleet	29	15	4	10	51	38	49
Sutton Utd	24	14	4	6	45	30	46
Billericay Tn	27	12	8	7	36	29	44
Gravesend	24	13	3	8	34	25	42
Enfield	25	11	6	8	46	31	39
Boreham Wood	27	9	11	7	42	38	38
Hendon	25	10	7	8	46	41	37
Aldershot Tn	24	10	6	8	48	24	36
Basingstoke	24	10	5	9	39	32	35
Dag & Red	24	9	7	8	46	37	34
Harrow Boro	27	9	6	12	40	43	33
Chesham	25	9	5	11	42	46	32
Slough	26	8	7	11	36	40	31
Dulwich	26	8	6	12	29	36	30
Walton & H	27	8	5	14	32	48	29
Carshalton	29	7	7	15	33	58	28
Bromley	27	7	6	14	40	50	27
Hampton	25	6	7	12	26	48	25
Heybridge	26	6	6	14	25	54	24
Bishop's S	26	4	7	15	33	64	19

FIRST DIVISION: Bognor Regis 1 Yeading 3; Braintree 2 Whyteleafe 0; Grays 4 Leatherhead 0; Maidenhead 1 Hitchin 0; Molesey 1 Leyton Pennant 4; Oxford City 3 Wealdstone 1; Romford 2 Barton 2; Staines 0 Uxbridge 1; Wembley 1 Berkhamsted 0; Worthing 0 Canvey Island 2. Second division: Banstead 3 Bedford Town 1; Barking 0 Northwood 1; Bracknell 0 Abingdon Town 5; Edgware 2 Windsor and Eton 2; Hemel Hempstead 4 Met Police 1; Hertford 0 Hungerford 3; Horsham 0 Chalfont St Peter 1; Marlow 1 Wivenhoe 2; Thame 2 Leighton 1; Tooting and Mitcham 0 Harlow 2; Wokingham 1 Witham 0. Third division: Camberley 2 Flackwell Heath 1; Clapton 0 Epsom and Ewell 4; Corinthian-Casuals 4 Croydon 4; East Thurrock 0 Cheshunt 1; Ford 2 Dorking 1; Hornchurch 1 Aveley 4; Kingsbury 1 Tring 2; Lewes 3 Tilbury 0; Southall 2 Ware 1; Wingate and Finchley 0 Egham 1.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Barnet 0 Gillingham 2; Bristol 3 Southend Utd 1; Cambridge Utd 3 Colchester Utd 2; Leyton Orient 2 Swindon 1; Oxford Utd 0 Brighton 1; Portsmouth 1 Luton 1; Reading 4 Bournemouth 1; Wycombe 0 Brentford 1.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Lincoln 1 Wolverhampton 0; Northampton 1 Port Vale 0; Stoke 0 Birmingham 1; Walsall 2 Notts County 1; West Brom 1 Chesterfield 0. North East Conference: Hartlepool 1 Grimsby 1; Huddersfield 1 Scunthorpe 3; Hull 1 Darlington 2; Rotherham 1 Bradford 0; York 3 Sheff 2. North West Conference: Bury 4 Preston 1; Carlisle 3 Tranmere 1; Chester 5 Burnley 0; Rochdale 5 Wrexham 2; Stockport 0 Blackpool 0; Wigan 4 Oldham 0. Postponed: Preston v Bury.

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Crewe 0 Liverpool 0; Crystal Palace 3 QPR 2; Derby 0 Middlesbrough 1; Ipswich 1 West Ham 3; Leeds 1 Sheff Wed 2; Leicester 3 Nottm Forest 7; Man City 0 Aston Villa 2; Man Utd 0 Blackburn 4; Peterborough 2 Arsenal 1; Southampton 2 Bristol 1; Sunderland 1 Norwich 1; Tottenham 1 Millwall 0; Watford 2 Coventry 1. Wimbledon 2 Charlton 2. Under-17: Arsenal 3 Peterborough 2; Charlton 1 Wimbledon 3; Coventry 3 Watford 0; Crewe 1 Liverpool 1; Derby 1 Middlesbrough 3; Leeds 3 Sheff Wed 1; Man City 8 Aston Villa 0; Man Utd 1 Blackburn 1; Southampton 1 Bristol 0; Sunderland 2 Everton 1.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Bridgnorth 2 Sandwell 1; Kings Norton 0 Shifnal T 1; Knypersley 3 Halesowen Harriers 0; Oldbury 1 Pocester 0; Pelsall Villa 3 Chasetown 1; Stourport 3 Barwell 0; Stratford 0 Stapenhill 3; Wednesfield 2 Rushall Olympic 3; West Midlands Police 1 Pershore 2; Willenhall 2 Boldmere St Michaels 1.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill 0 Wolverhampton Casuals 1; Darlaston 3 Tipton 0; Kington 3 Lye 1; Ludlow 1 Cradley 0; Smethwick 1 Dudley Town 3; Tividale 1 Bandon 0; Walsall Wood 1 Malvern 3; Wolverhampton 2 Bustleholme 2.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford 0 Westfield 3; Chessington and Hook 2 Reading 3; Cobham 3 Raynes Park Vale 2; Cranleigh 4 AFC Wallingford 3; Farnham 2 Viking Sports 2; Feltham 4 Cove 1; Godalming and Guildford 1 Chipstead 3; Hartley Wintney 1 Sandhurst 1; Merstham 1 Ash 3; Walton Casuals 1 Bedfont 3.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia 0 Newcastle Blue Star 0; Chester-le-Street 1 Marske 0; Crook 1 Bedlington Terriers 2; Dunston Federation 0 Guisborough 0; Jarrow Roofing 1 Morpeth 3; Penrith 3 South Shields 1; Shildon 1 Seaham Red Star 2; West Auckland 1 Billingham Town 2. Postponed: Easington v Stockton, Tow Law v Consett.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Bicester 5 Tuffley 1; Carterton 2 Kintbury 1; Cirencester Academy 1 Didcot 5; EFC Cheltenham 0 Banbury 1; Fairford 1 Abingdon 1; North Leigh 5 Wantage 0; Swindon Supermarine 1 Shortwood 2.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Cheslyn Hay 2 Continental Star 0; Coleshill 0 Massey Ferguson 3; Coventry Sphinx 5 Bilston Community College 1; Dudley Sports 2 Meir KA 4; Handrahan Timbers 3 Kenilworth 0; Highgate 2 Bolehall Swifts 1; Studley BKL 0 Alveston 2. Challenge Cup: Third round: GPT (Coventry) 1 Kings Heath 4.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town 2 Harwich and Parkeston 2; Ely 0 Sudbury Wanderers 3; Fakenham 1 Woodbridge 0; Felixstowe Port and Town 2 Histon 1; Maldon 3 Diss 4; Sudbury Town 4 Great Yarmouth 2; Warboys 1 Halstead 2; Watton 2 Soham 3. Postponed: Lowestoft v Newmarket; Wroxham v Gorleston.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: BAT 2 Lymington and New Milton 2; Bournemouth 1 Totton 1; Christchurch 2 Bemerton Heath 1; Cowes Sports 3 Brockenhurst 0; East Cowes 4 Portsmouth 2; Eastleigh 2 Downton 0; Fareham 2 Wimborne 1; Gosport 0 Whitchurch 0; Hamble ASSC 0 AFC Newbury 0; Thatcham 6 Money Fields 2.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 0 Ossett Town 1; Arnold 4 Thackley 2; Denaby 2 Sheffield 1; Eccleshill 2 Staveley MW 1; Garforth 3 Pickering 0; Liversedge 4 Glasshoughton Welfare 2; Ossett Albion 3 Brigg 4; Pontefract Cols 1 Maltby MW 1; Selby 1 Buxton 0.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey 1 Hoddesdon 2; Beaconsfield Sycob 1 Royston 2; Brache Sparta 2 Barkingside 0; Buckingham Athletic 1 Brook House 5; Haringey 0 Milton Keynes 2; London Colney 5 Hillingdon 0; New Bradwell St Peter 2 Welwyn Garden 0; Ruislip Manor 5 Islington St Mary's 1; St Margaretsbury 6 Harpenden 1; Somersett Ambury 0 Waltham Abbey 0; Toddington 5 Brimsdown 1.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: C Manning OB 0 Old Vaughanians 2; Glyn OB 0 Old Ignatians 2; Old Meadonians 2 Enfield OG 2; Old Salvatorians 3 Old Hamptonians 2. Senior first division: Latymer OB 2 Old Dorkinians 0; Old Isleworthians 0 Old Suttonians 2; Old Reigatians 0 Old Kingsburians 2; Old Tiffinians 1 Old Wilsonians 4; Shene OG 1 Old Manorians 1.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Etonians 2 Lancing 4; Bradfieldians 1 Old Brentwoods 4. Postponed: Old Foresters v Old Reptonians. First division: Malvernians 2 Aldenhamians 1; Wykehamists 3 Wellingburians 2. Postponed: Haileyburians v Old Cholmeleians. Arthur Dunn Cup: Haberdashers 0 Old Chigwellians 5.

AFA SENIOR CUP: Fourth round: Old Aloysians 1 Old Finchleians 2; Nottsborough 3 Old Tenisonians 3.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Old Actonians 4 Lensbury 0; Polytechnic 2 Norsemen 1; Nat West Bank 2 Old Parmiterians 0; Barclays Bank 7 East Barnet OG 1; Carshalton 1 Lloyds Bank 1; Alexandra Park 2 Old Owens 2; Old Stationers 2 South Bank 5; Old Parkonians 1 Old Bromleians 0; Old Salesians 1 Old Lyonians 1; Winchmore Hill 0 Old Esthamians 0; Merton 3 Bank Of England 0; Alleyn Old Boys 11 Brentham 0; Broomfield 2 Southgate Olympic 6; Ibis 0 Old Westminster Ctz 6; Cuaco 4 Kew Association 2.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior One: City of London 3 Parkfield 2; Old Grammarians 6 Southgate County 2; Ulysses 0 St Marys College 0. Postponed: Old Woodhouseians v Hale End. Senior Cup: Hadley 1 Mill Hill Village 4.

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood 0 Southend Manor 0. League Cup: Quarter-finals: Basildon 1 Ilford 2; Bowers 3 East Ham 1; Concord 1 Great Wakering 2; Sawbridgeworth 0 Saffron Walden 2.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple 1 Calne 1; Bideford 1 Bishop Sutton 6; Brislington 3 Bridgwater 1; Bristol Manor Farm 1 Odd Down 3; Chippenham 1 Taunton 3; Keynsham 0 Elmore 6; Melksham 1 Backwell 1; Paulton 0 Tiverton 2; Westbury 1 Bridport 0.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town 3 Horsham YMCA 1; Hassocks 4 Chichester 0; Langney Sports 0 Redhill 1; Littlehampton 3 Broadbridge Heath 1; Portfield 4 Hailsham 0; Selsdean 1 Pagham 0; Selsey 0 Ringmer 2; Shoreham 6 Whitehawk 1. John O'Hara League Cup: Third round: Crawley Down Village 0 Eastbourne 1; Newhaven 0 Wick 8. Fourth round replay: East Preston 1 Burgess Hill 2.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne 1 Wellingborough 0; Desborough 1 Potton 0; Kempston 0 Cogenhoe 5; Long Buckby 0 Boston 0; St Neots 2 Holbeach 3; S and L Corby 1 Eynesbury 1; Stotfold 1 N Spencer 2; Yaxley 2 Wootton 2. Knockout Cup: Second round replay: Cottingham 1 Ford Sports 2; Buckingham 3 Spalding 2.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Beckenham 4 Tunbridge Wells 0; Chatham 2 Whitstable 0; Cray 0 Hythe 1; Crockenhill 2 Sheppey 1; Erith 1 Canterbury 0; Faversham 1 Ramsgate 4; Herne Bay 0 VCD 0; Slade Green 1 Deal 5; Thamesmead 1 Greenwich 1.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal 2 Doncaster 2. Postponed: Bradford v Everton; Tranmere v Croydon.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Aston Villa 4 Coventry 0; Berkhamsted 1 Arnold 0; Blyth Spartans Kestrels 1 Sheffield Wed 3; Huddersfield 1 Leeds 7; Wolverhampton 1 Garswood Saints 3. Southern division: Brighton 3 Wimbledon 0; Leyton Orient 1 Whitehawk 5; Three Bridges 3 Barnet 1.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caersws 2 Afan Lido 1.

WELSH CUP: Fourth round: Ammanford Town 1 Colwyn Bay YMCA 0; Barry Town 0 Connah's Quay 1; Carmarthen Town 2 Caernarfon Town 0; Conwy United 7 BP Llandarcy 0; Inter Cable-Tel 1 Pontardawe Town 1; Llanelli 1 Cwmbran 2; Port Talbot 2 Flint Town 0; Total Network Solutions 2 Rhayader Town 1.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle 0 Brora 2; Deveronvale 2 Rothes 0; Elgin 1 Nairn County 0; Forres Mechanics 4 Wick Academy 1; Fort William 0 Huntly 8; Peterhead 1 Fraserburgh 1. Postponed: Cove v Clachnacuddin; Keith v Lossiemouth.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballymena 4 Linfield 2; Cliftonville 0 Glenavon 0; Crusaders 2 Coleraine 0; Glentoran 2 Omagh Town 0; Portadown 2 Newry 1. First division: Ards 1 Bangor 2; Ballyclare 0 Larne 1; Carrick 2 Distillery 3; Dungannon Swifts 1 Limavady Utd 2.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derry City 0 St Patricks Ath. 0

VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There were six score draws: Crystal Palace v Crewe; Burnley v Reading; Swansea v Carlisle; *Forfar v East Fife; Stevenage v Kingstonian; Altrincham v Winsford Utd. Payouts on six and five score draws. This weeks confirmed pay out for: Six score draws. 22 winners each £6,332. Five score draws: 460 winners each £5.

*Randomly generated by the "The Match Maker".

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
1	1	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	1	2	[illegible]	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	3	1	1
1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	3

FORECAST: Half-time: no claims required — winnings sent automatically — forecast is very good, seven score draws and 18 no-score draws.

Full-time: no claims required — forecast is very good, seven score draws and five no-score draws.

GOLF: ASPIRING YOUNGSTER LEAVES WESTWOOD AND COMPANY TRAILING AS HE SECURES DESERT CLASSIC

Howell begins to fulfil promise

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN DUBAI

A LOT has been expected of David Howell since he turned professional in 1995 with words of praise from Peter McEvoy ringing in his ears. "He is one of the best I have seen for ten years," McEvoy, then captain of the England amateur team of which Howell was a star member, said.

Now Howell, 23, is turning that promise into reality. Victory in the Desert Classic here yesterday was his second as a professional in three months and he now looks a lot better than the 169th-best golfer in the world, which is what he was ranked at the start of last week.

Nick Faldo must wait to see if he will qualify for the Andersen Consulting world championship in California next week. Faldo, who missed the halfway cut in Dubai, must hold 65th place in the rankings, but he is threatened by David Toms, who could oust him if he finishes seventh at the Buick Invitational.

In Sydney last November, Howell ran away with the Australian PGA championship by opening up a lead of six strokes in the third round and coasting to his maiden victory as a professional by seven strokes. Here, at Dubai Creek, on a day of sunshine and a light breeze that contrasted with the gloomy, overcast conditions of the third round, Howell laid waste to the field over the outward half of his final round. He reached the turn in 31 strokes, five under par, to leave his rivals gasping.

Howell birdied the 1st while Wayne Riley, with whom he had shared the lead at eight under par overnight, bogeyed it and that two-stroke swing sent each man on their respective ways. A 67 by Howell, who led by six strokes at one point, took him to 13 under par, four strokes ahead of Lee Westwood. Riley had a 74 to fall back to six under par, where he was tied with Ed Fryatt and Colin Montgomerie.

Howell has been known as a long hitter for some time. "I played with him in a practice round for the Open two years ago and he was long then and, if anything, a bit wild," Mark James, the Ryder Cup captain, said. "To win round here suggests he is obviously not wild now. If you can win here, you can win anywhere."

Howell's birdie on the 1st settled any nerves that he might have had, but it came after he had driven into the rough. He was wild off the tee on the 3rd as well as the 4th, where he holed a 40ft putt for a birdie. An eagle on the 5th, where he used a three-wood and a five-iron before sinking a 6ft putt, steadied him, and birdies on the 9th and 10th holes confirmed that he was not going to let the initiative slip.

Westwood, returning to something like his best after his winter lay-off, proved to be the closest of Howell's pursuers — his final round of 67 following scores of 72, 71, and 69. On the 15th, he hit a seven-iron to 4ft and holed for a birdie — enabling him to leap ahead of James and Paul McGinley, who were tied for third place, eight under par, after rounds of 69 and 67 respectively.

"You would see David on the practice range and know he had that little bit extra," Westwood said. "I think that David lacked self-belief until he played well in Japan in November and then went to Australia and won there a week later."

Howell agreed. He said: "Pete Cowen, my coach, used to tell me not to put myself down so much, that I don't believe I am as good as I am." This win should give Howell all the confidence that he needs.

☐ *John Hopkins's column will appear later this week.*

Howell produced a superb final round to win the Desert Classic in Dubai yesterday. Photograph: Jack Dabaghian

LEADING FINAL SCORES

(Great Britain and Ireland unless stated) **275:** D Howell 69, 68, 71, 67 **279:** L Westwood 72, 71, 69, 67 **280:** P McGinley 67, 71, 75, 67; M James 73, 69, 69, 69 **282:** C Montgomerie 70, 70, 72, 70; E Fryatt 70, 70, 70, 72; W Riley (Aus) 66, 70, 70, 74 **283:** A Wall 70, 70, 72, 71; J Randhawa (India) 73, 69, 70, 71; M-A Jiménez (Sp) 73, 67, 70, 73 **284:** A Cejka (Ger) 68, 73, 75, 68; M Jonzon (Swe) 71, 68, 76, 69; P Price 67, 73, 73, 71; M Campbell (NZ) 71, 71, 71, 71 **285:** G Evans 72, 70, 75, 68; J Bickerton 73, 73, 71, 68; D Robertson 71, 73, 72, 69; P Affleck 69, 72, 74, 70; J Sandelin (Swe) 69, 70, 75, 71; W Bennett 69, 70, 71, 75 **286:** P Fulke (Swe) 73, 72, 74, 67; S Webster 70, 70, 74, 72; R May (US) 69, 74, 71, 72 **287:** A Cabrera (Arg) 73, 71, 76, 67; M O'Meara (US) 72, 57, 77, 71; P-U Johansson (Swe) 72, 74, 70, 71; J M Olazábal (Sp) 69, 73, 73, 72; P Nyman (Swe) 71, 72, 72, 72; F Cea (Sp) 69, 73, 72, 73 **288:** S Garcia (Sp) 68, 73, 75, 72; J Rivero (Sp) 72, 71, 73, 72; T Levet (Fr) 69, 73, 72, 74 **289:** R Gonzalez (Arg) 74, 72, 74, 69; E Romero (Arg) 70, 75, 72, 72 **291:** J Van de Velde (Fr) 77, 69, 76, 69; S Struver (Ger) 70, 71, 77, 73; C Rocca (It) 72, 74, 69, 76; R Green (Aus) 72, 67, 75, 77

SNOOKER

Higgins kept on tight rein by Doherty's persistence

BY PHIL YATES

KEN DOHERTY, who has found, over the past few days that mediocre form does not necessarily block the path to success, entered the concluding session of the Benson and Hedges Masters final at Wembley Conference Centre last night on level terms with John Higgins, the world champion, with the opportunity still there to become the first Irish winner of the game's leading invitation event since Dennis Taylor recovered from 8-6 down to edge out Alex Higgins 9-8 in 1987.

However, any assumption from the 4-4 scoreline at the interval that Doherty had at last regained the form that enabled him to win the world title in 1997, was well wide of the mark. The Dubliner had rarely engaged anything higher than second gear all week, but, crucially, he continued to fight determinedly against struggling opponents.

In turn, Steve Davis, Ronnie O'Sullivan and Alan McManus were below par against him and Higgins, the odd flourish accepted, also failed to display his usual level of reliability.

Higgins, who overcame the handicap of a stomach upset to defeat Anthony Hamilton 6-3 in a low-key semi-final on Saturday, began brightly, with breaks of 45 and 35 in the first frame, before Doherty potted brown, blue and pink for 1-1. Again Higgins threatened to take command when, erasing a 60-point deficit with an exceptional 66 clearance, he stole the third frame on the black and cleared with 34 to win the fourth for a 3-1 advantage at the mid-session interval.

Without being able to generate any level of fluency, Doherty controlled the fifth frame tactically, but, 27-0 ahead in the sixth, he went in-off playing an attempted safety and Higgins stepped in with a 76 break to establish a 4-2 lead.

Higgins, who eased through his opening matches by beating Alain Robidoux and Mark King 6-1, looked set to press on, but, after sportingly calling a foul shot on himself at a critical stage of the seventh frame, the pendulum swung against him.

Higgins, forced to bridge awkwardly over the pack, potted a red to a middle pocket, but, in so doing, illegally grazed another with his cue. He immediately alerted Jan Verhass, the referee, and a frame-winning opportunity disappeared.

On his next visit to the table, Higgins misjudged a return to safety. Doherty put together a run of 47 and, greatly assisted by fluking the penultimate red, he took a low-scoring, disjointed eighth frame to restore parity.

Six of the remaining 11 frames were required in order to collect a first prize of £155,000, the largest so far this season. To become only the third player to simultaneously hold the world, United Kingdom and Masters titles after Davis and Stephen Hendry was an additional and powerful incentive for Higgins.

Even though Doherty was fighting a fierce rearguard action, it was generally accepted that Higgins retained his status as favourite, having prevailed in six of his eight previous encounters with Doherty, including an 18-12 victory in the world championship final nine months ago. The last time that he played in the final of a leading tournament, Higgins came alive in the second session. On that occasion, he pulled away from Matthew Stevens to win the United Kingdom championship at Bournemouth in November.



Higgins: remains favourite

However, despite his consistency and unparalleled record over the past three years, Higgins has lost 12 of the 24 finals he has contested. Doherty, a keen student of the game, was surely aware of that particular statistic, and must have drawn a certain amount of confidence from it.

SEMI-FINALS: K Doherty (Ire) bt A McManus (Scot) 6-3; J Higgins (Scot) bt A Hamilton (Eng) 6-3. **FINAL:** Doherty level with Higgins 4-4. **Frame scores** (Higgins first): 63-31, 52-69, 66-60, 61-34, 1-72, 80-27, 31-76, 21-56.

BOXING

Calzaghe loses his air of authority

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

JOE CALZAGHE retained his World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight championship against Robin Reid, of Runcorn, at the TeleWest Arena, Newcastle, but he lost his aura of invincibility. Calzaghe won by the narrowest of margins. The judges scored the contest 2-1 in the Welshman's favour, but their marks of 9-4, 9-4 to Calzaghe and 9-4 to Reid, were bizarre.

Had Reid not been penalised one point in the eighth round for a low blow on Saturday, Calzaghe might have lost his title. Many experts at the ringside had Reid winning by a point. Colin Jones, the former world welterweight contender, who was working for Welsh radio, made Reid the winner.

On this performance, Calzaghe can no longer be considered the best super-middleweight in the world. He blamed his showing on an injury sustained to his left hand in the fifth round. Since he has received other injuries and even undergone operations, the injury will reinforce concern for the future. His father, Enzo, who trains him, said: "He was only 80 per cent because of the injury."

Frank Warren, the promoter, said that a rematch was in order, but the bout he wanted to put on was Calzaghe against Richie Woodhall, the World Boxing Council champion. Warren could not say which would come first.

Woodhall retained his title against Vincenzo Nardiello, of Italy, stopping him in the sixth. The Telford man had been told by doctors to retire sooner rather than later because of an elbow injury, but he wants to hang on for a big pay day, which means a bout with Calzaghe.

BOWLS

Sanders is offered a second chance

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

A REMARKABLE finish, reminiscent of the way in which they won the Liberty Trophy last April, gave Durham an exciting 121-117 win over Devon in the semi-finals of the national inter-county championship at Wellingborough on Saturday.

Television cameras had turned up to put Griff Sanders, Devon's self-styled bad boy of bowls, under the spotlight, but, if the programme-makers had hoped that he might do his famous John McEnroe impression, they were disappointed.

John Frisby, the secretary of the host club, said: "Griff couldn't have behaved better. He applauded the opposition's good bowls and he was the epitome of good sportsmanship throughout."

Sanders, banned by the Devon County Bowling Association for ten years, had the implementation of the ban suspended for two years by an English Bowling Association (EBA) tribunal last month, so he is free to play outdoors — on probation, as it were — until September, 2000.

The EBA tribunal, which kept Devon happy by upholding the ban, recommended also that, if he behaves himself for those two years, the ban should be lifted.

He passed the test on Saturday, even though the match was effectively won and lost on the last end on his rink, when Chris Palmer's quartet claimed a count of five that turned a two-shot deficit into a three-shot advantage.

In the final at Melton Mowbray on Saturday, April 18, Durham will play Hampshire.

MOTOR RALLYING

McRae bemoans Finn's dominance

FROM JEREMY HART IN KARLSTAD

COLIN McRAE described Tommi Makinen's victory in the Swedish Rally yesterday as bad for the sport. It was the Finn's fifth win in the past six events and McRae said: "It is not good for one driver to be so dominant."

McRae, who was forced out of the event on Saturday, predicts a fourth successive world championship for Makinen, unless Carlos Sainz, who was second for a fourth year in a row in Sweden, can find a chink in the Finn's armour.

"With many drivers in new cars still finding their feet, this could be Tommi's easiest title yet," McRae said. "He is understandably confident at the moment, but by mid-season I reckon we will be winning and, although the championship might be out of our grasp, we will still add some sparkle to the end of the year."

Makinen, in a Mitsubishi, dominated the Swedish Rally almost from start to finish, although Sainz, driving a Toyota, led briefly on Friday before losing his grip on an event never won by a non-Scandinavian driver.

"It is of course disappointing not to have moved up a place after four years of finishing second," Sainz said. "This has been the fastest Swedish Rally I can remember. At one point, we hit 200 kilometres an hour — and on ice."

Makinen's lead in the title race is a healthy 13 points from Didier Auriol, the No 2 Toyota driver, who was fourth in Sweden. The Frenchman was locked in a close fight for third place until the last stage, but eventually lost out by 2.5sec to Thomas Radstrom in the second Ford Focus. Richard Burns, in a Subaru, finished fifth after struggling with unsuitable tyres.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Hua defeats champion

■ **SWIMMING:** Chen Hua, of China, defeated Claudia Poll, of Costa Rica, the world and Olympic champion, in both the 400 and 800 metres freestyle events in Glasgow over the weekend as the World Cup arrived in Europe (Craig Lord writes). Chen won the 400 metres in 4min 4.50sec, the eighth-fastest time in history. British successes included national records for Zoe Baker, of Sheffield, who swam 31.55sec in the 50 metres breaststroke, and Nicola Jackson, of Derwentside, who finished third in the 50 metres butterflyin 27.50sec.

■ **CYCLING:** **Dave Rand, the English road race champion in 1998, was disqualified from the Perfs Pedal Race in Hampshire, yesterday, by a police motorcycle outrider for alleged infringement of traffic regulations. "I had been warned earlier about my riding," Rand said, "but on unmarked stretches of road with no on-coming traffic. The policeman drew up alongside me and said, 'You're out of the race,' so I got off my bike."**

■ **JUDO:** Kate Howey, the world middleweight champion, from Andover, survived a damaged knee to win a bronze medal at the Tournoi de Paris on Saturday. In her first round bout against Youlia Semenova, of Russia, Howey collapsed on the edge of the mat, but, after treatment, resumed and won. In the fight for the bronze, Howey met Karine Rambault, of France, and dominated to reach the podium on a decision.

■ **BOXING:** **Oscar de la Hoya, of the United States, beat Ike Quartey, of Ghana, on points in Las Vegas on Saturday to retain his World Boxing Council welterweight crown. It was Quartey's first defeat in 36 bouts. "It was a very intimidating fight for me," De la Hoya, who is now unbeaten in 30 contests, said. Two judges went for De la Hoya, by margins of 116-112 and 116-113, while the third went for Quartey 115-114.**

■ **ATHLETICS:** Gert Thys, of South Africa, ran the second-fastest marathon in history yesterday. Thys, 27, clocked 2hr 6min 33sec to win the Tokyo Marathon, 28sec outside the world best that was recorded by Ronaldo da Costa, of Brazil, in Berlin last September. Thys finished 1min 32sec ahead of Hiroshi Miki, of Japan.

■ **SKIING:** **Zali Steggall gave Australia a first Alpine title on Saturday when she won the women's slalom at the world championships in Vail, Colorado. Her winning time was 1min 33.97sec. Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, the slalom champion in 1996, finished second in 1min 34.77sec, while Trine Bakke, of Norway, was third.**

■ **FOOTBALL:** Arsenal, the FA Women's Premier League leaders, drew 2-2 with visiting Doncaster Belles, their closest challengers, at Potters Bar yesterday, despite being reduced to ten players. Vicki Slee was dismissed for protesting against a penalty decision in the fifth minute, but her team were denied victory only by a second-half equaliser from Vicky Exley.

CRICKET

Jaded England suffer their final indignity

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE (Australia won toss): Australia beat England by 162 runs

ENGLAND ended their four-month tour of Australia at the MCG on Saturday with a resounding defeat in the second of the finals of the triangular tournament, making a third game unnecessary as Australia had won in Sydney last Wednesday.

It was the second-biggest margin of defeat that England have suffered in 292 one-day internationals and a score of 110 was their fourth-lowest total. "As a team, we have not batted well enough," was Alec Stewart's view of their overall performance. Yet he thought still that they could do well in the World Cup.

Australia made 272 for five from their 50 overs, with half-centuries from Gilchrist, Lehmann and Martyn. In no time at all, England found themselves 13 for four, with Hick, Hussain and Fairbrother failing to contribute a run.

Stewart denied that the players were tired and, given that nine members of this party had arrived in Australia at Christmas, he had a point. But he would be less than human if he was not feeling sore. He has been here since October, playing as captain, opening batsman and wicketkeeper, and this is a big country. He has let nobody down.

Had England won in Sydney, as they should have done, there might have been a spring in their step on Saturday. As it was, they looked jaded. It did not help that Knight was run out in the second over and that Hick cut his second ball to third man. After that, it was a procession and the innings ended tellingly when Warne fooled Mullally with his flipper, just to remind everybody that he is back.

The England bowling stood up well, the fielding has, at times, been excellent, but teams win matches by making runs, or chasing them. Hick, named jointly with McGrath as man of the series, scored three hundreds, but England won only one of those games. They do not often bat confidently as a team. Knight made one fifty, Stewart none and, apart from Hick and Fairbrother, who batted well in three games, and Hussain, who got a 90, the rest have made twenties and thirties — and that doesn't win you many games.



Stewart: still optimistic

Five of the first six batting places, however, are pretty secure. Stewart and Knight will open, Hick will bat at No 3 with Fairbrother at No 5 and Adam Hollioake below him, although Hollioake could do with a few runs in Sharjah.

Who occupies the important position of No 4 is unclear. David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said yesterday that Graham Thorpe, who returned home during the Test series with a back injury, was ready to return. "He has had extensive treatment under the supervision of Philip Bell, the England team doctor, and has made himself available to go to Sharjah, in early April."

England badly need a fit Thorpe, for Hussain rarely gave the impression of being master of a one-day situation. Crawley batted limply in two important matches and Ben Hollioake has fallen from favour. England, who have lost six of their past seven one-day games, must regroup swiftly to justify Stewart's post-match hopes for the World Cup.

By contrast, Australia will start as second-favourites, behind South Africa. They have won their past seven one-day matches and can expect to add to that list in the Caribbean when they go there later this month. In the absence of Steve Waugh, Warne has captained the side with uncommon flair.

He ended up with three wickets on Saturday, after McGrath and Dale had again liaised to considerable effect. Dale, who gives the batsmen little to hit, could be a "trump card" in England, to borrow Warne's phrase, and McGrath always takes some holding. He had fortune on his side here in winning an appeal for a catch at the wicket off Hussain. The batsman could be excused for taking a deep breath before he departed.

England need not despair. Few teams win one-day tournaments in other countries, as they know from their good form in the Texaco Trophy every May. But time is running out and some important matters await resolution.

SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

Australia won toss

AUSTRALIA

† A C Gilchrist c Knight b Croft .... 52 (64 balls, 6 fours)
M E Waugh c Hick b Gough .... 1 (12 balls)
R T Ponting c Fairbrother b Hollioake .... 37 (43 balls, 1 six, 3 fours)
D S Lehmann c Hussain b Wells .... 71 (75 balls, 4 fours)
D R Martyn b Mullally .... 57 (80 balls, 1 six, 2 fours)
S G Law not out .... 20 (18 balls, 1 four)
S Lee not out .... 20 (9 balls, 2 sixes)
Extras (b 10, w 3, nb 1) 14
Total (5 wkts, 50 overs, 204min) 272

B P Julian, *S K Warne, A C Dale and G D McGrath did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11 (Gilchrist 9), 2-92 (Gilchrist 49), 3-104 (Lehmann 9), 4-216 (Martyn 42), 5-244 (Law 13)

BOWLING: Gough 9-1-55-1 (nb 1, 4 fours, 5-1-20-1, 2-0-21-0, 2-0-14-0) **Mullally 10-1-53-1** (w 1, 2 sixes, 2 fours, 6-1-21-0, 2-0-9-0, 2-0-23-1) **Ealham 6-0-41-0** (w 1, 3 fours, 3-0-21-0, 1-0-13-0, 2-0-7-0) **Wells 5-0-34-1** (2 sixes, 2 fours, 3-0-19-0, 2-0-15-1) **Croft 10-0-40-1** (w 1, 1 four, one spell) **Hollioake 10-0-39-1** (1 four, one spell)

Score after 15 overs: 68 for 1

ENGLAND

N V Knight run out (Ponting/Gilchrist) .... 4 (3 balls)
***† A J Stewart c Lee b Julian** .... 32 (56 balls, 5 fours)
G A Hick c Dale b McGrath .... 0 (2 balls)
N Hussain c Gilchrist b McGrath .... 0 (1 ball)
N H Fairbrother c Gilchrist b Dale .... 0 (2 balls)
V J Wells b Warne .... 23 (54 balls)
A J Hollioake c Gilchrist b Dale .... 7 (8 balls)
M A Ealham b Warne .... 12 (35 balls, 1 four)
R D B Croft not out .... 13 (22 balls, 1 four)
D Gough c Gilchrist b Julian .... 6 (15 balls)
A D Mullally lbw b Warne .... 9 (10 balls, 2 fours)
Extras (w 1, nb 3) 4
Total (31.5 overs, 130min) 110

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9 (Stewart 5), 2-10 (Stewart 6), 3-10 (Stewart 6), 4-13 (Stewart 9), 5-43 (Wells 7), 6-50 (Wells 7), 7-72 (Ealham 5), 8-88 (Croft 8), 9-100 (Croft 13)

BOWLING: McGrath 6-0-26-2 (4 fours, one spell) **Dale 10-1-27-2** (1 four, one spell) **Julian 6-2-18-2** (nb 3, 2 fours, 3-0-5-1, 3-1-13-1) **Waugh 4-0-23-0** (w 1, 1 four, one spell) **Warne 5.5-0-16-3** (1 four, one spell)

Score after 15 overs: 51 for 6

Australia won by 162 runs

Match award: D S Lehmann

Series award: G A Hick and G D McGrath

Umpires: D B Hair and D J Harper. **Third umpire:** S J Davis

Referee: P L van der Merwe (South Africa)

Compiled by Bill Frindall



Hansen showed her best form for a year, yet she could still finish no better than second at the BUPA Grand Prix in Birmingham yesterday. Photograph: Phil Cole/Allsport

ATHLETICS

Ethiopian's dramatic run enthrals British crowd

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

HOW nearly it all ended in huge anticlimax, but Haile Gebrselassie negotiated the hazards that stood before him on the final bend of the 5,000 metres in the BUPA Grand Prix yesterday to set his fifteenth world record. It was a run as magnificent as it was dramatic.

The meeting had stuttered from one failed African world record attempt to another — by Daniel Komen and Maria Mutola — without success. It was lifted only by a succession of fine British performances. Then, Gebrselassie stepped on to the track for the last event.

Shouted on by a capacity crowd of 8,500, many of them his Ethiopian countrymen, Gebrselassie kept to world-record schedule going into the final lap, which he needed to cover in only 30sec, slower than his average speed for the previous 24 laps. All he needed was for the three tail-enders he was about to lap for the second time to step aside.

However, Miroslav Vanko, Reda Benzine and Jonah Kiptarus kept the inside line and Gebrselassie was forced wide into the third lane. Then, weaving his way in and out of the three, he managed somehow to avoid a clash of bodies and strode to a world record in 12min 50.38sec, beating Komen's world record by 1.10sec.

The meeting could not have asked for a better start, a British record in the opening event by a local woman. Katharine Merry, Birmingham resident and Birchfield Harrier, who went to the top of the year's world rankings in her first — and last — international race of the indoor season. Merry, 24, recorded 22.83sec to take 0.13sec off the record held for two years by Donna Fraser.

Previously, Merry had held the record. In regaining it, she might have been tempted to abandon plans to go training in Australia and run in the world indoor championships in Maebashi, Japan, next month — but no. Intead, Merry remains single-minded about peaking for the outdoor season.

"I do not want to change my plans, even if I am the fastest in the world this year and I have never been up there before," Merry said.

Coached by Linford Christie, Merry has been persuaded to delay, by at least a season, her move up to 400 metres. Though she came close to breaking 51sec last season and won a European relay bronze medal, she only dabbled at the distance. She will do so again this year, concentrating on 200 metres.

"Last year was my first year with Linford and my first since 1993, when I had a full season," Merry said. "It might be next season I move up to 400, but it might be the season after that."

Merry shares a house in Birmingham with Ashia Hansen. Under the same roof as athletes yesterday, Hansen was as pleased as Merry. Showing her best form since setting a indoor triple jump world record last February, Hansen produced a last-round leap of 14.76 metres. Her world record still stands, at 15.16 metres.

Curiously, Hansen's mark puts her at the head of the world rankings for the year, yet she finished second. She shares the lead in the rankings with Sarka Kasparkova, the world indoor champion from the Czech Republic, after both women recorded 14.76 metres. However, Kasparkova took the victory with a superior second mark.

Janine Whitlock improved her British pole vault record by a centimetre to 4.29 metres. While Whitlock flew through the air, Komen's world record attempt in the 2,000 metres failed to get off the ground. As Whitlock was clearing the bar, Komen was struggling even to stay in touch with the leaders, let alone the record. In a race won by Laban Rotich, from Kenya, in 4min 56.09sec, more than 3sec outside the world record. Komen finished fourth.

In the second of three world record attempts, Maria Mutola, from Mozambique, was also unable to deliver. She won, but in 1min 58.25sec, almost 2sec outside her target.

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World championship put to test

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN CALCUTTA

THE Asian Test Championship (ATC), which begins tomorrow, does not immediately strike as being the most important event in world cricket this winter, yet the success or otherwise of this tournament will have far wider implications for the structure of the game in the millennium than the result will hold for local pride.

When India and Pakistan meet in Calcutta, they open just the second triangular Test competition in history and the first since 1912. Later this month, Sri Lanka entertain India before the Sri Lankans visit Pakistan in March. Uniquely, points will be awarded not only for victory, but also for runs scored and wickets taken in a format that mirrors the English county championship almost precisely.

The top two countries will meet in the final in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on March 12 to 16. It is hard not to see this as the initial step towards a world championship, particularly as Jagmohan Dalmiya, the ambitious and evangelical president of the International Cricket Council (ICC), is among the biggest supporters of the idea.

Dalmiya recently described the ATC as a "pilot" and, at the very least, it might become a regular event in the sub-continent, swelling to four countries if and when Bangladesh receive full Test-playing status. With the ICC due to reopen discussions on a recognised Test championship soon after the World Cup, however, the events of the coming month will be scrutinised by all nine full members.

In particular, they will wish to assess the level of interest in the final, the first Test match to be staged on neutral territory since Australia played South Africa in England 87 years ago. On the previous occasion, the organisers grossly over-estimated demand to watch foreign teams in direct opposition. Ridiculous as it now seems, the failure of the 1912 experiment — which was won by England, due largely to the bowling of Sydney Barnes — even caused worry among administrators that the first World Cup would prove a similar flop some 63 years later.

This time, the portents are more auspicious. Television here is still re-running highlights — and there are many — of the recent thrilling series between India and Pakistan, while the feat of Anil Kumble in taking ten wickets in an innings in Delhi continues to feature prominently in the newspapers. Despite another high-profile security operation, which Indian authorities seem to relish, the demand for tickets in Dalmiya's home city of Calcutta is likely to ensure crowds of around 70,000 each day.

Bowlers toil for scant rewards

WELLINGTON (second day of three): Wellington Emerging Players, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 138 runs behind England Under-19

DEPLETED as they are by injury and compassionate leave, England Under-19 could have done without this long, hot day (John Stern writes). As Wellington progressed to 282 for four — in reply to England's 420 — there was a weary look about England in the field. Tim Alldis, 19, an all-rounder from Devon, was drafted in. He was one of seven bowlers used on a sapping day.

The four players who were not fit for this game, including Michael Gough, the captain, should all be available for the decisive third international against New Zealand on Thursday and Richard Logan has returned after his mother's funeral.

Zimbabwe fall to spin partnership

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN BULAWAYO

BULAWAYO (final day of five): England A beat Zimbabwe A by 193 runs

ONCE again, it is to the A tour that eyes must turn to witness English success abroad. As the senior team were enduring their final capitulation in Melbourne, England A were in the process of completing an emphatic 193-run victory over Zimbabwe A in the second international match here.

In ten years of A tours, only one series has been lost, to West Indies in 1991-92. The latest instalment came when, given the entire final day to take the remaining seven Zimbabwe A wickets, the match was concluded in the last over before tea. Graeme Swann and Dean Cosker each took four wickets, wearing down a resistance that extended to a stubborn last-wicket partnership of 16 overs.

It was a final day not without incident, however. The home side were convinced that two umpiring decisions went firmly against them, the second a freak dismissal when Trevor Gripper pulled Cosker on to Robert Key at short leg only for Darren Maddy, at silly point, to catch the rebound.

Andy Whittall, the Zimbabwe A captain, pointed to a lack of experience at playing the longer version of the game for his side's performance. He was impressed, however, with the batting of Love and Vaughan and singled out Andrew Flintoff for his contribution in both matches.

"We thought he might succumb to a bit of pressure in the first match in Harare, but he reacted brilliantly to it," Whittall said. "He obviously has bundles of talent."

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South Africa humbled by Astle show

NATHAN ASTLE scored 95 to lead New Zealand to a three-wicket win over South Africa in the first of their six-match series of one-day internationals at Carisbrook in Dunedin.

New Zealand reached 215 for seven with five balls to spare after bowling out the visitors for 211. Jacques Kallis scored 100 for South Africa, but their innings floundered with Geoff Allott claiming four for 35.

New Zealand slipped to 74 for four after 17 overs before Astle and Matthew Bell, who made 37, combined for a 90-run stand that put the side back on top.

The win was soured slightly by an injury to Chris Cairns, the all-rounder, who tore a calf muscle as he set off for a sharp single. He limped down the pitch and was run out by a direct hit from Dale Benkenstein at cover.

TENNIS

Golmard collects first title as Kiefer capitulates

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN DUBAI

WELL, at least it may make Tim Henman feel a little better — the man who beat him at the Dubai Open went on to win the title. Jerome Golmard, the world No 61, won his first career title last night by defeating Nicolas Kiefer 6-4, 6-2, earning himself a neat $142,000 and, rather more importantly, breaking into the world's top 40 for the first time.

In the end, the final proved to be the easiest night's work against the lowest-ranked player that Golmard had faced all week. To get so far, he had to push past Karol Kucera, Henman and Carlos Moya, the world No 2.

After that little group, Kiefer was a simple test. Helped by the fact that the German had worked a double shift yesterday, having to finish his rain-delayed semi-final with Andrew Ilie at lunchtime, Golmard was in control from the start.

At first glance, Kiefer appears to be a dead ringer for Andre Agassi. He sports a similar hairstyle, a similar goatee beard and has a waddling walk in much the same fashion as the former world No 1. And, like Agassi, he was the crowd's favourite.



Kiefer: tame surrender

The only voices shouting for Golmard were a group of off-duty ball boys, but they were interested only in a cheering competition with the Kiefer supporters. Last night, unfortunately, he also showed the worst of Agassi's characteristics, appearing to go through the motions as the match moved increasingly from his grasp. He dropped his service for the first time in the fifth game, a double fault giving Golmard the lead, and never looked likely to get back into the match.

The only time that he held a break point against the Golmard service was when the Frenchman was serving for the first set. Not that it was any cause for concern — Golmard simply changed his tactics, headed for the net and brushed aside the challenge.

That was more than enough to break Kiefer's spirit. His service disintegrated as he double-faulted his way to disaster at the start of the second set. Matching his aces with double faults, he dropped his service again to go 5-2 down.

Not even then did the crowd notice the Frenchman. As Golmard held three match points, a voice yelled "you've come back before", encouragement that pushed Kiefer to wallop his next return wide and give Golmard the title.

HOCKEY

Smith hits hard on his return

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

OLD Loughtonians, reinforced by Scott Smith, their Canadian centre forward, secured maximum points from two high-scoring National League premier division matches over the weekend. Smith scored two goals in a 6-5 away victory over Canterbury yesterday, adding to the three that he scored at home against East Grinstead, who were beaten 5-4 on Saturday.

Sean Kerly, the Canterbury manager, was disappointed but not despondent. "We had the game in our hands and threw it away," he said. "After building a 3-1 lead, we started giving the ball away in the middle of the pitch and paid a heavy price."

Kerly praised Triggs for some splendid goalkeeping. Triggs rescued Canterbury by saving a penalty stroke from Garrard in the first half of their away match on Saturday against Teddington, who held Canterbury to a 1-1 draw.

Cannock were restricted to a 1-0 win over Beeston on Saturday, but they took over the leadership of the division after a 3-1 away victory over Brooklands yesterday.

Jennings scored his 200th league goal when he netted the second of his three goals for Guildford in a 7-1 home victory over Southgate on Saturday. However, Guildford were halted in their tracks yesterday by Hounslow, who picked up a valuable point at home in a 3-3 draw. Nurse scored all three Hounslow goals. Robinson hit the target twice for Reading, who drew 2-2 with Teddington, while Surbiton trounced Hampstead 8-0 to stay on top of the first division.

Clifton dig deep for vital wins

BY CATHY HARRIS

CLIFTON recovered from conceding two early goals to reach the quarter-finals of the EHA Cup when they defeated Ipswich in a sudden-death penalty shoot-out after the sides were level 2-2 at full time.

The result sealed a successful weekend double for the Bristol-based Cup-holders, who also ended Ipswich's unbeaten run in the premier division on Saturday.

Tammy Miller, the Clifton captain, said that the team's league display was their best performance of the season. "It was important to know we can win crunch games and a great lesson for the younger players," she said. "We showed a lot of mental toughness to come back."

Shelly Pleasance, the left winger, gave Ipswich the perfect start with two deft strikes inside the opening 20 minutes. Sandie Lister, the captain, who hobbled off with a thigh strain in the second half, glanced on Kirsten Spencer's free hit for the first and Jo Ellis set up the second after a break down the right.

Lucy Newcombe reduced the deficit 12 minutes before the interval after a goalmouth scramble before Denise Marston-Smith brought the scores level in the 57th minute. After the first round of penalties finished level at 2-2, Marston-Smith made no mistake to put Clifton through.

Despite their league defeat, Ipswich stay on top of the table ahead of Slough, the champions, with Clifton and Hightown consolidating their positions in the top four play-off positions. Hightown and Slough also advanced to the quarter-finals of the cup.

Allied Dunbar Premiership: Leicester leap sizeable hurdle and will not rest on their laurels

Richards wary of obstacles to come

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London Irish	10

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE will be no euphoria at Leicester after Saturday. If Dean Richards does not succeed in keeping feet firmly on the ground, the Five Nations Championship will do it for him because it will force the Allied Dunbar Premiership leaders to regroup and realign as players return from international duty in a month's time, when Leicester renew their march towards the title.

Richards, the team manager, will stress the difficulties that lie ahead, at Northampton, Bath and Newcastle, and when Saracens visit Welford Road. He will reiterate the demands for self-discipline that he made at the start of the season, which must include, surely, a stern lecture to Austin Healey, whose casually flicked boot forced Kevin Putt off the field for treatment and, if spotted, might have earned the scrum half a red card.

Should London Irish choose to make more of the incident than Putt was inclined to, it could cost Healey his place in the England squad. Dick Best, the club's director of rugby, watched the video yesterday and will make an announcement today once he has spoken to Richards. Best is clearly unhappy at what occurred, but, deep down, Leicester will be hugging themselves for so significant a win against a London Irish team who have taken the first division by storm.

The Irish pride themselves on their defence, but Leicester's tackle-count, well in excess of a hundred, was almost double that of the visitors and threw a blanket over the most potent attacking force that the Premiership has seen in the past three months.

Twice the Irish pierced it, both times through Brendan Venter, who might have had ten minutes in the sin-bin himself for a stiff arm thrown out as Craig Joiner came stepping inside him in the opening minutes. Venter, who has asked for a decision on his future by the end of this month, scored the visitors' only try, then watched his colleagues squander another that might have brought the Irish within a converted try of their opponents and opened up the game.

"We understand people will make us favourites for the title now, but we are taking nothing for granted," Richards said. He dismisses the six-point that lead Leicester have opened on Northampton, with seven matches remaining, but Best was more candid. "The title is in Leicester's hands," he said. "They have magnificent forwards and incisive backs. They did to us what we have done to so many others this season — put us under pressure and forced errors."

The Irish might have profited if their half backs had kicked more in the hope of winning territory; yet the failure of the lineout limited their ability to play the sidelines. In the absence of the injured Malcolm O'Kelly, Leicester stole four Irish throws — the last led directly to a late try by Leon Lloyd — and turned as many again into dross for Putt.


MARC ASPLAND
Healey, the Leicester scrum half, fields the ball on his own try line to prevent Woods from scoring at Welford Road

It was a wonderful exhibition of controlled forward play, backed by Joel Stransky's six penalty goals from six attempts, and the size of Leicester's task had eased by half-time as the Irish achieved the equivalent of rugby suicide — "mindless" in the eyes of Best — by straying offside in midfield time and again.

Leicester probed thoughtfully, asking questions in the midfield, varying their ploys from lineouts, then springing the venomous David Lougheed on the Irish. The Canadian wing, from the blind side, brushed off Robert Todd and left Venter and Stephen Bachop in his wake as he cantered to his sixth try in his tenth Premiership appearance.

Having run through Stransky for the Irish try, Venter opened up the midfield, but Bachop, of all people, ran his support into touch when a try loomed for the elusive Justin Bishop. It was the wake-up call that Leicester, cheered to the echo by a crowd of 14,500, needed: desperate defence by Bachop and Neal Hatley stopped Neil Back at the corner, the prelude to ten successive scrums on the Irish line, from which Leicester should have sewed up the match.

It is testimony to the Irish tight forwards that they held out and eventually won a penalty, but the initiative had swung Leicester's way. Tim Stimpson, who needs these understated, though effective, games if he is to recover an England place, ran powerfully from full back and whenever a chink of light occurred for the Irish, the door was slammed swiftly shut by the home back row. Appropriately, a sublime pass by Back cut out two defenders and gave Lloyd an unopposed romp to the line, which ended matters in style.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Lougheed (40min), Lloyd (82). Penalty goals: Stransky 7 (4, 7, 17, 23, 28, 40, 68). London Irish: Try: Venter (48). Conversion: Woods. Penalty goal: Woods (8).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Leicester first): 3-0, 6-0, 6-3, 9-3, 12-3, 15-3, 20-3, 23-3 (half-time), 23-10, 26-10, 31-10.
LEICESTER: T Stimpson, L Lloyd, C Joiner (rep: J Stuart, 72min), P Howard, D Lougheed; J Stransky, A Healey; G Rowntree (rep: D Jelley, 63), R Cockerill (rep: D West, 69), D Garforth, M Johnson, F van Heerden, L Moody (rep: W Johnson, 69), N Back (rep: W Johnson, 40-41), M Corry.
LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea; J Bishop, R Todd, B Venter, N Woods, S Bachop, K Putt (rep: P Richards, 13-18), N Hatley (rep: M Worsley, 74), R Kirke, R Hardwick (rep: K Fullman, 63), R Strudwick, N Harvey, J Boer, R Gallacher, I Feaunati.
Referee: G Hughes (Manchester)

Cardiff pay the price

BATH snatched Gareth Cooper, the Wales Under-21 scrum half, from under Cardiff's noses last summer and he showed on Saturday what the Welsh side missed with a brilliant opportunist try to put his side 25-10 ahead. Although Cardiff replied with three second-half tries, they were always behind and eventually went down to a 44-32 defeat, the heaviest in the Anglo-Welsh series.

Bath, who had Matt Perry to thank for some pinpoint place-kicking, were quick to punish sloppy Cardiff defending, especially in the last quarter when both wings — Adebayo, with two, and Tindall — scored tries.

Diprose shines as distracted West lose way

Saracens	48
West Hartlepool	27

BY DAVID HANDS

THE sight on Saturday of leading teams such as Wasps and Newcastle lapsing so badly may have acted as a spur to Saracens at Vicarage Road yesterday. At times, they looked nothing like a club preparing to rejoin the top three in the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership: at others, they ran lowly West Hartlepool ragged. West, like so many others, have commercial matters as close to their hearts as playing issues.

All the talk last week was of the possible merger of their club with Newcastle, as a consequence of the proposed withdrawal of Cameron Hall Developments from the funding of the champions, but Andy Hindle, the West chairman, believes that any such moves are unlikely before the end of the season.

For all that a business consortium, fronted by Paul Mackings, who represents West in English First-Division Rugby, is said to be one saving prospect, there will be no developments until the Newcastle Gosforth Shareholders' Association has decided what will happen to the 76 per cent shareholding of Cameron Hall. "We can't do anything legally until that happens," Hindle said, "but there has to be some sense in a super club for the North East."

So far as West's playing staff are concerned, this is only the latest round of a season in which the playing structure seemed likely to leave them behind before pay and staff cuts physically did leave some West players behind.

"My philosophy is to wait and see," Philippe Farner, the West captain, said with admirably Gallic fatalism.

For a brief time, hope flickered in the lock's heart as his side recovered from a start in which Saracens scored a point a minute to take the lead through an interception try by Stephen John, which took West to a 14-13 lead.

Saracens' reaction was swift: Kyran Bracken scuttled through a midfield huddle to restore the advantage and Tony Diprose made sure there would be no way back for West by completing a splendid hat-trick. Amid a blitz of 38 penalty awards that stemmed much of the continuity, the creativity of Diprose shone like a beacon and made up for the gap since his previous league try last October.

Once Saracens secured clean possession, they were allowed too much space. Ryan Constable carved through the middle to send Rob Thirlby to the line and, although a well-worked loop by Tu Nu'uali'itia sent Pita Tanginoa, the Tongan centre, over by the posts, Saracens were out of range.

Diprose crossed for his third try after a tapped penalty and Saracens closed in a blaze of glory as Emmett Farrell, the West full back, was carried off with damaged knee ligaments; Brendon Daniel came sprinting out of his own half, bounced out of two tackles and sent Danny Grewcock over the line deep into injury-time.

SCORERS: Saracens: Tries: Penaud (3min), Diprose 3 (7, 54, 70), Bracken (39), Thirlby (57), Grewcock (87). Conversions: Johnson 4, Thirlby. Penalty goal: Johnson (13). West Hartlepool: Tries: John (38), Tanginoa (61). Conversion: Vile. Penalty goals: Vile 5 (26, 31, 36, 66, 71).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Saracens first): 5-0, 10-0, 13-0, 13-3, 13-6, 13-9, 13-14, 20-14 (half-time), 27-14, 34-14, 34-21, 34-24, 41-24, 41-27, 48-27.
SARACENS: G Johnson (rep: M Singer, 72); R Thirlby, R Constable, S Ravenscroft, B Daniel; A Penaud, K Bracken; D Flatman (rep: B Reidy, 67), G Chuter, P Wallace, P Johns, D Grewcock, F Pienaar (rep: Hill, 65), R Hill (rep: P Ogilvie, 55), A Diprose.
WEST HARTLEPOOL: E Farrell (rep: A Handley, 80); J Benson, J Connolly, P Tanginoa, S John; S Vile, T Nu'uali'itia (rep: R Stone, 53-55); S Sparks (rep: J J van der Esch, 60), S McDonald, K Fourie (rep: P Beal, 55), P Farner, M Giacheri, M Salter, J Ponton, M Brewer.
Referee: I Ramage (Scotland).


Bracken sprints clear on his way to scoring Saracens' third try yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Hill's plans ignored by Harlequins

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BY MARK SOUSTER

RICHARD HILL wants more time. Whether his wish will be granted, only Tom Walkinshaw knows. After their ninth consecutive defeat by Harlequins, whom they meet again in the quarter-finals of the Tetley's Bitter Cup at the end of the month, Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, realises that time may not be on his side.

If Hill could wave a magic wand, Gloucester would be a team bursting with England talent, competing at the top end of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Although he is adamant that Walkinshaw, the owner, shares his long-term vision, he also accepts that pressure to achieve results is immense.

Hill has outlined his dream in a five-year plan with which, he says, Walkinshaw had concurred. It paints a stark picture of an apocalyptic meltdown in the English game this summer, from which only the well-managed and well-resourced clubs will survive as professional entities. He expects Gloucester to be among them.

Hill's problems at the moment are fairly basic and reflect on him as much as the players. The defensive alignment was shocking, so much so that Phil Larder, England's defence guru, will be called in as soon as possible. The quality of passing among the three-quarters was abject, the recycling of possession painfully slow at times. Only Trevor Woodman and Steve Ojomoh looked convincing.

Harlequins could afford to give Gloucester a ten-point start through a Mapletoft penalty and a neatly executed try by Beim. They were also able to conce a contentious penalty try and the bulk of possession, but still run out more than comfortable winners. This, despite the loss, after only three minutes, of Thierry Lacroix, with a torn hamstring, in his comeback game after recovering from concussion.

As always, Keith Wood led by example. The indefatigible Ireland hooker got France out of his system with a virtuoso performance, masterminding the move that pulled Gloucester to shreds and saw Gareth Llewellyn gallop in from 30 metres for his side's final try.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tries: Beim (10min), penalty try (37). Conversions: Mapletoft 2. Penalty goals: Mapletoft 2 (6, 63). Harlequins: Tries: O'Leary (30), Wright (43), Llewellyn (65). Conversions: Schuster 2. Penalty goals: Schuster 4 (16, 19, 46, 73).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Gloucester first): 3-0, 10-0, 10-3, 10-6, 10-13, 17-13 (half-time), 17-20, 17-23, 20-23, 20-28, 20-31.
GLOUCESTER: A Lumsden; T Beim, S Mannix, R Tombs, P Saint-André (rep: R Greenslade-Jones, 75min), M Mapletoft (rep: Greenslade-Jones, 19-29), S Benton, T Woodman, N McCarthy, A Powles (rep: D Hinkins, 49), R Fidler, D Sims (rep: M Cornwell, 60), E Pearce (rep: A Hazell, 70), N Carter, S Ojomoh.
HARLEQUINS: D O'Leary (rep: V Going, 80), J Keyter, P Mensah, J Schuster, D Officer; T Lacroix (rep: C Wright, 3), H Harries, J Leonard, K Wood, G Halpin (rep: A Yates, 80), G Llewellyn, T Collier, W Davison, R Jenkins (rep: C Sheasby, 75), A Leach.
Referee: D Mené (France).

Bedford bury the demons

Bedford	25
Wasps	23

BY MICHAEL AYLWIN

YET more evidence of the fluctuating nature of the Allied Dunbar Premiership was forthcoming at Goldington Road on Saturday. Having just inflicted a record defeat on Bath, Wasps were beaten by Bedford, who had not won a league game since October 10 and were beaten by Bath only three weeks ago.

It has been growing increasingly painful this season to watch Bedford play with such spirit and adventure, yet persistently fall short of a win. On Saturday, their season continued in the same vein on the first count, but, on this occasion, they finally managed to clinch the two points.

One feared the worst for them as the clock ticked into the ninth minute of injury time and Wasps were awarded a string of penalties. Bedford, however, succeeded in consummating their lead, which they had established in the fiftieth minute, with victory. The game hung in the balance until the very end, but Bedford were due a change in fortune.

Wasps held the advantage at half-time, but another sparkling Bedford try from Stewart and a drop goal from Howard in the third quarter forced Wasps into catch-up mode. King had the chance to win the game for Wasps with a late 35-metre penalty goal, but, with the boos of a 3,440 crowd ringing in his ears, the young fly half pushed his kick wide.

"Today, we're smiling," Rudi Straeuli, the Bedford coach, said. "It's important to remember the joy of winning. I think I'd forgotten how it feels."

SCORERS: Bedford: Tries: Richards (5min), Underwood (26), Stewart (50). Conversions: Howard 2. Penalty goal: Howard (66). Dropped goal: Howard (55). Wasps: Tries: Reed (2), King (29), Dallaglio (77). Conversion: King. Penalty goals: King 2 (17, 63).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Bedford first): 0-5, 7-5, 7-8, 12-8, 12-15 (half-time), 19-15, 22-15, 22-18, 25-18, 25-23.
BEDFORD: S Stewart; R Underwood, A Murdoch, D Harris, D O'Mahony; S Howard, R Elliott, C Boyd, J Richards, V Hartland (rep: A Ozdemir, 40min), D Zaltzman (rep: R Winters, 11), S Murray, J Cockle, J Forster (sin-bin, 75-85), J Paramore (sin-bin, 87).
WASPS: J Lewsey; P Sampson, F Waters, M Denney (rep: R Henderson, 50), S Roiser (rep: M Friday, 70), A King, M Wood; D Molloy, T Leota, W Green, M Weedon (rep: S Shaw, 59), A Reed, L Dallaglio, P Volley (sin-bin, 75-85), P Scrivener (rep: J Worsley, 57).
Referee: E Morrison (Bristol)

Scottish refuse to perform in exile

London Scottish	27
Newcastle Falcons	17

BY MARK BALDWIN

MIRACLE is hardly too strong a word for it. London Scottish, facing a Bristol buy-out, existing on borrowed money, borrowed time and with negligible home support, continue to grow stronger the longer that this arduous Allied Dunbar Premiership season goes on.

John Steele, the Exiles' director of rugby, spoke of his respect for "the dignity and concentration" of his players after another big scalp was taken on Saturday. Newcastle, themselves suddenly riven by the uncertainties that churn the crazy world of English club rugby, went the way of Bath, Saracens and Gloucester as Scottish reaffirmed their seemingly unquenchable spirit. Scottish, with five wins from their past nine league and cup matches, scored four tries before Newcastle could reply.

Jannie de Beer, their gifted South African fly half and the game's outstanding player, said: "We all want to play for London Scottish in the Premiership next season. I feel for a lot of the guys who have been here a long time and are worried about the future. The best way forward is to prove we belong in the top league."

Newcastle, the fallen champions and the subject of unsettling takeover and merger speculation since Sir John Hall pulled out his financial backing, may now absorb the Scottish approach to life.

SCORERS: London Scottish: Tries: Fenn (17min), Johnstone (29), Easterby (61), Holmes (67). Conversions: De Beer 2. Penalty goal: De Beer (43). Newcastle: Tries: Shaw (70), Legg (76). Conversions: Wilkinson 2. Penalty goal: Wilkinson (14).
SCORING SEQUENCE (London Scottish first): 0-3, 5-3, 12-3, 15-3 (half-time), 20-3, 27-3, 27-10, 27-17.
LONDON SCOTTISH: S Binns, K Milligan, J Bonney, R Eriksson, C Sharman (rep: I McAusland, 77min), J de Beer, G Easterby; P Johnstone (rep: M MacDonald, 48), D Rudham (rep: D Cummins 3-7, 49), P Burnell, E Jones, M Watson (rep: M McAtamney, 41), S Fenn (rep: T Davies, 20-25), S Holmes, R Hunter (rep: Davies, 49).
NEWCASTLE: P Massey (rep: S Legg, 70), T Underwood, M Shaw, R Andrew, V Tuigamala; J Wilkinson, G Armstrong; G Graham, R Nesdale, M Hurter, H Vyvyan, G Archer, S O'Neill (sin-bin, 27-37), J Cartmell (rep: R Arnold, 70), R Beattie.
Referee: C Rees (London)

Sale unable to capitalise on Richmond injury woe

Richmond	29
Sale	24

BY ALAN PEAREY

GRAHAM HENRY, the Wales coach, had hoped to see Craig Quinnell put througyh his paces yesterday, ahead of the international against Ireland on Saturday. Instead, Quinnell failed to start and Henry's troubles were compounded by the loss of Allan Bateman, the Wales centre, who hobbled off after 40 minutes with a pulled hamstring.

In a week that had seen Richmond docked two points and a wasted trip to Newcastle, they at last profited from some good fortune. Sale were pressing hard at the close, but Shane Howarth's knock-on was one error too far and the Lancastrians' losing sequence was extended to a club-record seven matches.

It was hard to believe that Sale arrived at the Madejski Stadium on the back of such wretched form, at least on the evidence of the first 20 minutes. But for poor finishing, they could have been out of sight. After a try by Steve Hanley, Kevin Ellis darted for the line, ignoring a three-man overlap, then Jim Mallinder, the full back, could not hold the ball with the line at his mercy. Mallinder's dismay was alleviated when Howarth scored under the posts.

Just before half-time, Agustin Pichot put Richmond within a point with a marvellous solo try, gathering his own chip over a startled defence.


Bateman: pulled hamstring

Then a try by Barrie-Jon Mather, straight after half-time, proved a false portent.

Sale, suddenly conceding penalties at an alarming rate, allowed Va'a to kick Richmond level and then their opponents to enjoy a one-man advantage as Chris Murphy, the lock, was sent to the sin-bin. The broken play that followed suited Richmond and Ben Clarke and Spencer Brown capitalised with tries just past the hour, leaving John Mitchell, the Sale director of rugby, in reflective mood. "We weren't beaten by a better side," Mitchell said. "We beat ourselves."

SCORERS: Richmond: Tries: Pichot (40min), Clarke (63), Brown (65). Conversions: Va'a. Penalty goals: Va'a 4 (3, 34, 46, 49). Sale: Tries: Hanley 2 (14, 77), Howarth (24), Mather (42). Conversions: Howarth 2.
SCORING SEQUENCE (Richmond first): 3-0, 3-5, 3-12, 6-12, 11-12 (half-time), 11-17, 14-17, 17-17, 22-17, 29-17, 29-24.
RICHMOND: L Best, N Walne (rep: M Pini, 51min), A Bateman (rep: M Dixon, 40), M Deane, S Brown, E Va'a, A Pichot; D McFarland, B Williams, M Fitzgerald (rep: G Powell, 4, rep: A Cuthbert, 68), A Sheridan, C Gilles, B Clarke, A Vander, L Cabannes.
SALE: J Mallinder, D Rees, J Baxendell, B-J Mather (rep: C Yates, 74), S Hanley, S Howarth, K Ellis (rep: K Smith, 74), D Bell, P Greening, D Theron, S Raiwalui, C Murphy (sin-bin, 50-60), P Anglesea, A Sanderson, D O Cuinneagain.
Referee: S Piercy (Yorkshire)

Soaring Swansea hit new heights

Swansea	58
Northampton	24

BY GERALD DAVIES

SWANSEA are playing wonderful rugby at present. They are beginning to attain the elusive convergence that brings together the practical matter of winning matches while at the same time satisfying the desire to entertain.

The quality of their passing gave not only an exciting rhythm to this match but rendered an enticing promise of the potential of the Swansea team. On recent evidence, they are lifting Welsh rugby to a level that no one can match.

That their ground is in such grand playing condition does help. While other pitches have been reduced, because of rain and snow, to something resembling agriculture usage, St Helen's is almost pristine in its greenness.

John Plumtree, the Swansea coach, is raising his sights beyond the immediate quality of his opponents. Beating the opposition is not the only measurement. He sets his own standards and assesses the possibilities that the game affords for his players to fulfil their personal capabilities. Swansea may still be a long way off from that which Plumtree wishes, but the club is on the right path.

For some curious reason, they did not keep their feet on the throttle here. Admittedly, Northampton were shorn of their international players, just as Swansea were short of a couple of their own, but, for the most part, the English could not live with the home team. There were individual sorties from Sleightholme or Thorneycroft, or the forwards might shift the maul for many a yard, but the slickness and adventure belonged to the more inventive Swansea side. They attacked from all corners, especially when Weatherley was in possession before retiring with an injury.

The first three tries scored in the opening 12 minutes were the result of first-time passing and support. A high score seemed likely, but, just when Swansea looked set to dominate, Malone took a tap penalty to score a try. This stopped Swansea in their tracks and it took them a while to recapture their rhythm, but, even then, it was only in fits and starts.

Arwel Thomas is a marvellous orchestrator at fly half. He normally delays his pass until the last moment, but on Saturday he benefited by going a step further, not passing at all and so taking the space that opened up for him. He scored 23 points, is in fine form and becoming increasingly influential at a club that once had doubts about him.

SCORERS: Swansea: Tries: Weatherley 2 (3min, 22), Thomas 2 (10, 46), Rees (13), Taylor 2 (36, 79), Loader (41), S Davies (51). Conversions: Thomas 5. Penalty goal: Thomas (19). Northampton: Tries: Malone (17), Phillips (49), Bramhall (76). Conversions: A Hepher 3. Penalty goal: Hepher (40).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Swansea first): 5-0, 12-0, 17-0, 17-7, 20-7, 27-7, 34-7, 34-10 (half-time), 41-10, 48-10, 48-17, 53-17, 53-24, 58-24.
SWANSEA: D Weatherley (rep: M Back, 29min), R Rees, M Taylor, A Clement (rep: C van Rensberg, 44), S Davies; A Thomas (rep: L Davies, 62), R Jones; C Loader, G Jenkins (rep: C Wells, 50), C Anthony (rep: D Morris, 55), P Arnold, A Moore (rep: J Griffiths, 68), P Moriarty, R Appleyard, L Jones (rep: J Baker, 67).
NORTHAMPTON: R Jackson, H Thorneycroft, A Northey, M Tucker, J Sleightholme, A Hepher, D Malone (rep: J Bramhall, 66), M Volland, C Johnson (rep: S Walker, 66), M Stewart, J Phillips, S Hepher (rep: A Newman, 66), D Mackinnon (rep: A Cornish, 40), C Allan, S Foale.
Referee: P Bolland (Newport)

Ilkeston eye Twickenham

Ilkeston	42
Driffield	15

BY BARRY TROWBRIDGE

THE "craic" at The Stute for this NPI Cup quarter-final on Saturday was as good as it gets in junior-club rugby; to most spectators' delight, Ilkeston's performance matched it.

Elk's Head Bitter, "brewed exclusively for Ilkeston RUFC" by Castle Rock Brewery at nearby Nottingham, at a mere £1.30 a pint, no doubt enlivened the atmosphere and the resultant banter in the crowd was a match for the best, but it was on the field that Ilkeston, from Midlands II East, were to be judged and, to everyone's satisfaction, they proved themselves wholeheartedly.

For Driffield, who beat the then unbeaten Northern in the fifth round, their margin of defeat was flattering. With five minutes to play, the score, quite justifiably, read 42-3 and Driffield, who play their league rugby in North II, a level higher than Ilkeston's, could claim only three excursions to their opponents' 22.

That they scored from one of these, with a penalty goal on the stroke of half-time, did them no favours. Ilkeston increased even further the tempo that had seen them dominate the first half and did not take their feet off the throttle until they had added three converted tries, a penalty goal and a dropped goal — from an attack that began in their own 22.

It is difficult to pinpoint an outstanding Ilkeston player, but, should they reach Twickenham on April 17 — and the smart money surely says that they will — Scott Rudkin, at outside centre, will illuminate anybody's day. A tackle early on by Kevin Dove, their blind-side flanker, and his try at the start of the second half made him a man to watch, while Wayne Bell, at full back and, like Rudkin, a New Zealander, also appeared to be worthy of a higher stage.

SCORERS: Ilkeston: Tries: E Hallam (28min), A Chapman (31), K Dove (51), W Bell (56), S Rudkin (70). Conversions: Bell 4. Penalty goals: Bell 2 (4, 49). Dropped goal: Bell (62). Driffield: Tries: S Farnsworth (75), W Ollett (77). Conversion: J Iveson. Penalty goal: Iveson (40).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Ilkeston first): 3-0, 8-0, 15-0, 15-3 (half-time), 18-3, 25-3, 32-3, 35-3, 42-3, 42-10, 42-15

Castleford rekindle Wembley dreams

Castleford Tigers.............36
Hull Sharks.......................22

By Martin Richards

CASTLEFORD'S Wembley ambitions, rudely shattered by Sheffield Eagles, the eventual winners, last season, after wins over Leeds Rhinos and Bradford Bulls, are flowering again. Their splendidly ambitious half-back pair of Danny Orr and Brad Davis ruled the roost in a seven-try passage into the fifth round, where they will meet York, of the first division, at home.

The Tigers had to take the field without three of their new forward signings, but they still had too much ammunition for Hull, who have now failed to beat Castleford in 11 of their past 12 meetings.

Orr, 20, the stand-off half, engineered two tries for Davis, one for Richard Gay and was in support to take a pass from Aaron Raper for a try of his own in a glittering performance that rightly earned him the man-of-the-match award.

The pace of the game claimed a victim in Robert Connolly, the referee, who had to retire with an ankle injury after 18 minutes, to be replaced by David Ansell, the reserve official.

Davis, the scrum half, was similarly influential alongside Orr, with his astute tactical kicking always a threat. He was involved in the best try of the game, when he exchanged passes with Jason Flowers over 70 metres, before the full back went over the line. Flowers swooped in for the final Castleford try with ten minutes remaining, courtesy of a pass from Francis Maloney.

Hull contributed greatly to an entertaining tie, with Steve Prescott, the full back, picking up 14 of their points with two tries and three goals.

SCORERS: Castleford: Tries: Rogers, [illegible] Davis (2), Flowers (2), Orr **Goals:** [illegible] **Hull: Tries:** Prescott (2), Hall [illegible] **Goals:** Prescott (3).
CASTLEFORD TIGERS: J Flowers, R Gay, [illegible] F Maloney, D Rogers, D Orr, B Davis [illegible] A Raper, D Sampson [illegible] **Substitutes:** [illegible]
HULL SHARKS: S Prescott, D Baildon [illegible] **Substitutes:** G Hailey, A [illegible]
Referee: R Connolly (Wigan)

Silk Cut Challenge Cup: McDermott's dismissal fails to spark Wigan

Leeds proceed thanks to super 12

Leeds Rhinos.......................28
Wigan Warriors....................18

By Christopher Irvine

IT IS a theory that goes on being confounded. Twelve players cannot, surely, beat 13, given the ferocity of the modern game? Twice in three years now, Wigan Warriors have lost at the fourth-round stage of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup to opponents handicapped by dismissals but who rose magnificently to the occasion.

St Helens managed it when they had Bobbie Goulding sent off just before half-time and went on to beat Wigan 26-12. Leeds Rhinos looked to have less of a chance yesterday when Barrie McDermott, no stranger to the disciplinary committee, was dismissed for a desperate high challenge on Haughton after 20 minutes.

Not only did Leeds hang on, they romped home with something to spare, to Wigan's lasting embarrassment. While McDermott was cursing his lack of control and keeping everything crossed in the dressing-room, his colleagues turned in a wholehearted performance yesterday that will live long in the memory at Headingley.

Iestyn Harris did not miss a place kick, nor Anthony Farrell a tackle. Ryan Sherdian buzzed at scrum half and claimed the last of four tries to supplement his deserved man-of-the-match award. After seeing his side narrowly beaten by Wigan in the JJB Super League Grand Final last October, Graham Murray basked in an unlikely triumph.

"It's the proudest I've been with a team," the Leeds coach said. "Everyone might have said with 12 men that we were entitled to get beat. Wigan are a champion side, but we hung in there and showed character. All those clichés."

It was 31 years since Leeds last eliminated Wigan on route to winning the cup in 1968. Just as St Helens did in 1997, there is no reason to think that Leeds cannot progress to Wembley in May and end their 21-year drought.

Wigan hardly lacked chances. Had Reber, fresh from Australia and ill-at-ease thrust into such a full-blooded encounter, not dropped a pass in a counter-attack with three players outside him, Wigan, then 13-12 down, would have led. "In my experience with Wigan, the finishing is usually clinical. When we had things on today, we came up with a lot of dropped ball," John Monie, the Wigan coach, said.

The irony was that McDermott had rarely exercised such authority than he did in the opening quarter, including a lovely pass in the build-up to Godden's opening try, when he lunged at Haughton. The head of the Wigan forward rocked backwards and there was no question about the dismissal, nor of the Rhinos' continued commitment to the cause, however desperate the situation.

Sensibly, Harris dropped a goal to nudge them further in front and Leeds were quick to apply pressure when Cowie knocked on. Rivett took a long pass by Powell and neatly rounded Paul Johnson. Towards the break, though, numbers were catching up with Leeds as Florimo, growing in stature at stand-off half on his Wigan debut, set in motion a further score by Radlinski.

If Wigan thought that Leeds would crack in the second period, they were sadly mistaken. Sheridan added another dropped goal, Harris a penalty and the more ball that Wigan fumbled, the more Leeds grew in confidence.

The decisive try arrived in the 68th minute. After Harris and Hay had been halted, St Hilaire exploited an opening by the posts. The numbers were evened when Andy Farrell questioned St Hilaire's score and was ordered to the sin-bin. A try by Sherdan followed a superb break by Godden. Robinson scored late on, but Wigan supporters were by then cancelling their trips to London this year.

SCORERS: Leeds Rhinos: Tries: Godden, Rivett, St Hilaire, Sheridan **Goals:** Harris (5) **Dropped goals:** Harris, Sheridan. **Wigan Warriors: Tries:** Haughton, Radlinski, Robinson **Goals:** Farrell (2), Florimo.
LEEDS RHINOS: I Harris, L Rivett, R Blackmore, B Godden, F Cummins, D Powell, R Sheridan, D Fleary, T Newton, B McDermott, A Morley, Anthony Farrell, M Glanville
WIGAN WARRIORS: K Radlinski, J Robinson, D Moore, G Connolly, P Johnson, G Florimo, M Reber, T O'Connor, M Cassidy, T Mestrov, L Gilmour, S Haughton, Andy Farrell.
Referee: R Smith (Castleford)

GARETH COPLEY



Johnson is helpless to prevent Rivett, left, running in the second try for Leeds Rhinos at Headingley yesterday

St Helens unable to flatter in victory

Hunslet Hawks.....................10
St Helens............................40

By David Lawrenson

ST HELENS moved into the fifth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup by a comfortable margin, but they were made to fight much harder for victory than the scoreline suggests. Hunslet matched them in every department for the first 50 minutes, but the part-timers faded in the second half when St Helens took full advantage of their superior strength and fitness.

The visitors began brightly, with Sean Long using his pace to score from 20 metres after three minutes. Anthony Stewart, their teenaged centre, added a second four minutes later and, with Long kicking the conversion, it looked ominous for Hunslet. Yet they responded with a fine try when Butch Fatnowna, the wing, collected the ball on the halfway line and exploited some poor St Helens defending to score in the corner.

Midway through the half, Stewart collected his second try after good work from Sonny Nickle, but the Hawks refused to be overwhelmed by their JJB Super League opponents. Two penalties by Fletcher reduced the deficit to just four points at half-time and Hunslet must have been secretly harbouring thoughts of pulling off an upset.

Those thoughts were blown away by two tries in three minutes for Paul Sculthorpe and Paul Davidson to give St Helens a 28-10 lead going into the final quarter. They added three further tries to put a little gloss on the performance, but Ellery Hanley, in charge of his first competitive game for the club, will know that there is plenty of work to do if his team are to challenge for any of the big prizes this season.

SCORERS: Hunslet Hawks: Tries: Fatnowna. **Cons:** Fletcher **Pens:** Fletcher (2) **St Helens: Tries** Stewart (2), Sculthorpe (2), Long, Davidson, Cunningham, Barrow **Cons:** Long (3). **Pen:** Long.
HUNSLET HAWKS: M Fletcher, B Fatnowna, S Irwin, I Higgins, R Baker, D Mycoe, C Ross; J Walker, R Pachniek, C Richards, R Wilson, M Coyle, L St Hilaire **Substitutes:** L Tawhai, R D'Arcy, S Pryce, J Thackray
ST HELENS: P Atcheson, C Smith, T Stewart, P Wellens, A Sullivan; T Martyn, S Long, A Perelini, K Cunningham, J O'Neill, C Joynt, S Nickle, P Sculthorpe **Substitutes:** F Tuilagi, P Davidson, P Adamson, S Barrow
Referee: P Taberner (Wigan).

Gregory makes winning return

Salford Reds.........................16
Sheffield Eagles....................6

By Christopher Irvine

THE team is not the only change at the Willows. Andy Gregory, the Salford Reds coach, is back to his irrepressible best.

Gregory returned to the touchline after being banned last season, relaxed and with his match programme no longer pulped by constant bashing against the dugout. Indeed, he kept his distance and permitted himself a quiet smile as Salford reversed their semi-final defeat in 1998 by Sheffield Eagles.

"I've never felt better in my life. Talk at the club is all positive," Gregory said. "We've a cracking set of lads who, if they continue working hard, can only go in the right direction."

With the deadwood removed, Gregory has bought well over the winter. In two Australians — Hudson Smith and the skilful Darren Brown — Salford have a second-row combination capable of unsettling any opponents.

The hope expressed by John Kear that his Sheffield side had made a dignified exit was not born out after Martin was presented with a yawning gap for the second Salford try after Senior had failed to intercept a long pass by Brown.

When the Rugby Football League (RFL) executive committee studies the video today of a far from deliberate follow-through by Watson on Broadbent, it should find no case to answer. Far worse was a spiteful challenge on the Salford full back by Turner, who was fortunate only to be sent to the sin-bin.

With Laughton also in the sin-bin, alongside Highton for fighting, Sheffield ended the match with 11 players, after an encouraging start had seen Sovatabua set Senior up for a splendid try. Perversely, Salford got themselves going when short-handed by the temporary dismissal of Hulme, and the immense tackling of Alker and Baynes contributed to their impressive overall performance.

SCORERS: Salford Reds: Tries: Smith, Martin **Goals:** Blakeley (4) **Sheffield Eagles: Try:** Senior **Goal:** Aston
SALFORD REDS: G Broadbent, S Martin, B Thompson, G Casey, P Cange, S Blakeley, M Crompton, N Baynes, M Alker, P Southern, H Smith, D Brown, D Hulme **Substitutes:** P Highton, J Faimalo
SHEFFIELD EAGLES: W Sovatabua, K Lovell, D Powell, K Senior, B Sodje, M Pearson, M Aston, D Laughton, J Lawless, D Shaw, J Hardy, D Turner, R Doyle **Substitutes:** C Molyneux, G Stephens, S Baldwin, D Watson
Referee: J Connolly (Wigan)

Bradford gain from temper tantrum

BRADFORD Bulls chalked up a club record 92-0 win against Workington to reach the last 16 of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup yesterday, where they face a trip to Wakefield Trinity.

The Cumbrian side were already trailing 14-0 by the time that Barry Williams was sent off, after 18 minutes, for allegedly kicking out at Robbie Paul, the Bradford captain.

A hopeless task then became impossible and the Bulls dominated the game and scored 17 tries.

Leeds's reward for beating Wigan yesterday was a home tie in the fifth round against St Helens, the 1995 and 1996 winners. St Helens are now coached by Ellery Hanley, the former player-coach at Headingley.

Warrington Wolves have a home clash with Halifax, courtesy of a resounding 50-6 win over Featherstone Rovers at Wilderspool.

FIFTH-ROUND DRAW: Leeds v St Helens; Widnes v Leigh; Hull KR v London; Castleford v York; Wakefield v Bradford; Huddersfield v Salford; Warrington v Halifax; Whitehaven v Oldham or Dewsbury.
☐ Ties to be played on February 27/28

Sheehan on Bridge

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

In auctions in which a slam is being investigated, it is correct to make a forward move if you can tell the slam might be laydown. But if it is clear that it can be on a finesse at best, then you put the brakes on as quickly as possible. This example is from the quarter-finals of the 1998 Gold Cup. I was North, playing with Nick Sandqvist.

Dealer East — N-S game — *IMPs*

North: ♠ A K 5 4 3 ♥ J 8 2 ♦ A Q ♣ K J 4
West: ♠ 9 8 ♥ Q 5 4 ♦ J 10 8 3 2 ♣ Q 7 5
East: ♠ Q 10 7 6 2 ♥ 7 6 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ A 8 3
South: ♠ J ♥ A K 10 9 3 ♦ K 9 4 ♣ 10 9 6 2

W	N	E	S
–	–	Pass	1 H
Pass	1 S (1)	Pass	2 C
Pass	2 D (2)	Pass	2 NT (3)
Pass	3 H (4)	Pass	4 H (5)
Pass	Pass (6)	Pass	

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: jack of diamonds.

(1) The spade suit is thin for a force in the modern style; however, there would be little wrong in responding Two Spades and rebidding Three No-Trumps on the next round.
(2) "Fourth suit forcing" - we play it forcing to game: another style is to play that North can pass a response at the two level, in this case Two Hearts, Two Spades or Two No-Trumps.
(3) Unlimited, showing a diamond stopper
(4) Forcing.
(5) Clearly on his sub-minimum hand he doesn't want to make any slam moves.
(6) For a slam to be a reasonable chance I need South to hold at least KQxxx of hearts, king of diamonds and ace of clubs. With a hand as good as that, he would cue-bid Four Clubs over Three Hearts. Hence, even though he is likely to have good hearts (he would sign off in Three No-Trumps with poor hearts), it is clear he cannot have enough to make slam better than a finesse. Hence it is correct to pass on the North hand at this point.

For once an accurate sequence was rewarded - at the other table our opponents got to Five Hearts and went one off when declarer misguessed the clubs.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Keene on Chess

By Raymond Keene
Chess correspondent

Shirov's complaint

The Latvian grandmaster Alexei Shirov (now resident in Spain) qualified to contest a world championship match against Garry Kasparov last year by defeating Vladimir Kramnik in a match held in Cazorla, Spain. This contest was held under the auspices of the so-called World Chess Council, an essentially Spanish grouping. After a serious accident the leading light of the WCC, Señor Luis Rentero, was unable to raise the funding for Shirov's challenge to Kasparov and the match has apparently fallen through.

In a recent statement Shirov complains that an alternative offer from California, with a total prize fund of $600,000, was felt by him to be inadequate for a world title contest. Unfortunately for Shirov, his personal record against Kasparov is so poor that very large offers are unlikely to come through. The California bid has now been withdrawn and Shirov's performance at the Wijk aan Zee contest in January, though respectable, was hardly encouraging from the point of view of a potential world championship challenger.

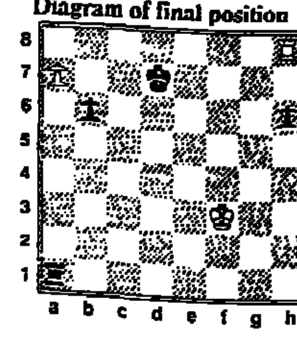
Here is a recent win by Shirov against a leading rival from the European Club Cup.

White: Alexei Shirov
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Belgrade 1999

Petroff Defence

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nf6
3	Nxe5	d6
4	Nf3	Nxe4
5	d4	d5
6	Bd3	Nc6
7	0-0	Be7
8	Re1	Bg4
9	c3	f5
10	Qb3	0-0
11	Nbd2	Na5
12	Qa4	Nc6
13	Bb5	Bh4
14	g3	Bf6
15	Bxc6	bxc6
16	Qxc6	Re8
17	Ne5	Bxe5
18	dxe5	Ng5
19	f4	Re6
20	Qc5	Ne4
21	Nxe4	dxe4
22	Be3	a6
23	Qc4	Qd7
24	Rac1	Rd8
25	Rc2	Qf7
26	Rd2	Rxd2
27	Bxd2	Rb6
28	Qxf7+	Kxf7
29	b4	Rc6
30	Kf2	Rh6
31	h4	Rc6
32	Ke3	Bh5
33	Kd4	Ke7
34	c4	Bf7
35	Rc1	Rb6
36	Kc5	Be8
37	Be3	Rc6+
38	Kd5	Rg6
39	Bc5+	Kd7
40	Rc3	Bf7+
41	Kd4	h6
42	a4	Rg4
43	b5	axb5
44	a5	e3
45	Rxe3	g5
46	e6+	Bxe6
47	cxb5	gxf4
48	gxf4	Rxf4+
49	Ke5	Rc4
50	Rd3+	Kc8
51	Kxe6	Rxc5
52	Rd5	Rc4
53	Rxf5	Re4+
54	Kd5	Rxh4
55	a6	Ra4
56	Rf8+	Kd7
57	Rf7+	Kc8
58	Rf8+	Kd7
59	Ra8	Ra1
60	a7	Rd1+
61	Ke4	Re1+
62	Kf3	Ra1
63	b6	cxb6
64	Rh8	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TERNAR
a. Triple
b. A student
c. A carpentry joint

URSINE
a. A hedgehog
b. Bearish
c. An order of nuns

TEFF
a. A straw hat
b. A grain
c. The Phoenician letter T

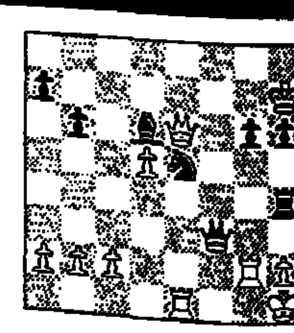
TURLOUGH
a. A holiday
b. An ornamental joint
c. A pond

Answers on page 41

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Carlier — Winants, Belgium 1998. How did Black execute a decisive breakthrough before White had the chance to activate his rooks?



Solution on page 41

Schumacher — genius or cheat?

He was the first in modern era to pay such attention to detail

SCHUMACHER Driven to extremes

However much controversy hangs around Michael Schumacher and whatever trouble he might get into with his reactions, one thing is undeniable: he is the best racing driver in the world.

The Argentine Grand Prix of 1998 had all the elements of a classic Schumacher victory: an inferior car driven to the limit with a clever and aggressive strategy, a controversial collision with David Coulthard and that bit of magic, a mesmerising stint after Ross Brawn, the Ferrari technical director, had come on the radio to say: "Michael, we need you to make up 12 seconds in five laps, please."

To illustrate the consistency of his pace, Eddie Irvine, his team-mate, driving a similar car, was almost a minute behind at the end.

"Only Michael can do this," Jean Todt, the team manager, said, and he was right. There have been plenty of talented drivers in Formula One, but only a handful who could win a race with a car that does not deserve to win. Senna and Prost did it many times and perhaps half of Schumacher's victories have come that way.

Like a great soccer player who can make time for himself on the ball, part of Schumacher's mental capacity is saved for dealing with the variables and uncertainties of the game. Perhaps this is why Gianni Agnelli, the patriarch of Fiat, calls Schumacher "the Pelé of Formula One".

It was an astonishing performance in Argentina, made all the more thrilling by a moment, five laps from the end of the race, when his Ferrari slithered off into a gravel trap. Amazingly, Schumacher knew the layout of this trap, having watched Johnny Herbert get stuck in it during practice.

Also, on the Sunday morning, as he toured slowly around the circuit during the drivers' parade, he had made his customary mental notes of the position of the Tarmac perimeter roads around the traps so that, when his Ferrari slid off, Schumacher kept his nerve and steered to where he knew there was a solid landing. It sounds simple, but few would be so well-organised and even fewer could think logically at that speed.

It was not the first or last time that Schumacher had made a mistake while pushing hard in the lead of a race. Brawn said: "In Monaco, he was leading when he hit a puddle on the pit straight and locked a wheel. It was more logical to him to go straight on down the escape road rather than try to make the corner and run the risk of hitting the barrier. Not many drivers would have known where the escape road was."

But what makes him so good? To begin with, his foundations are good; he always learns from experience, so that, as he gets older, he has a huge reserve to dip into.

He has an excellent memory and can recall details of chassis set-up, race strategy or even a random lap time from years before. Add to that an uncluttered mind, which allows him to think quickly and identify the root of a problem.

He is extremely fit and never gets tired, no matter how gruelling or hot the conditions. He has good reflexes and a unique ability to drive every corner of every lap flat out.

> 'Michael always knows why he was faster'

Pat Symonds, now technical director at Benetton, was Schumacher's race engineer when he won his two world titles. "He was the first driver of the modern era who had this incredible attention to detail," he said. "A lot of drivers just drive round and, if they go faster, don't know why or how they did it. Michael always knows why he was faster."

Winning against superior machinery requires something special and it is fair to say that Schumacher has never had the best car in Formula One. Stirling Moss, one of Britain's greatest drivers, says: "He's head and shoulders above the opposition." Luca Di Montezemolo, the Ferrari chairman, claims: "Without Michael Schumacher, this would be a world championship of taxi drivers."

The man who knows Schumacher, the racing driver, best in that context is Brawn, who says: "Michael is one of my heroes. It's a tragedy that he is misunderstood the way that he is. He had some great races in 1997 and 1998. Ferrari and Michael have been the only ones to make something of the championship. If Michael had not been around, you would have had two really tedious years, so when people are stabbing him, they should think about what he has brought to the sport."


Eyes of the tiger: Schumacher looks towards increased success on the Formula One circuit

Ayrton Senna was consistent, fast and ruthless. In 1988, at the start of Senna's epic rivalry with Alain Prost, someone observed that Senna put 100 per cent of himself into being the fastest driver, while Prost put 100 per cent of himself into winning races. Schumacher has succeeded in marrying the two objectives.

Is he one of the greatest drivers in the sport's history? Undoubtedly. Could he go on to be the greatest? Unlikely. Whereas Senna's triumph is to have won so much while having to beat Prost, and vice versa, Schumacher's success will always be tempered by the fact that he had no one of his class to beat. And the controversies and scandals that have surrounded him will weigh against him.



□ *Extracted from Michael Schumacher: The Quest For Redemption, by James Allen, published by Partridge Press (£16.99) on February 18. Readers can order a copy for £14.99 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 329454.*

His brilliance is widely acknowledged but so is his poor sportsmanship and his ruthlessness

A bad reputation: the easiest thing to acquire and the hardest to shake off. Before the start of the 1995 season, Schumacher hired Heine Buchinger as his press agent because he had gained such a reputation during 1994 and wanted to be rid of it. The German press had nicknamed him "Schumel Schumi" and he hated it. Roughly translated, *schumel* is halfway between crafty and cheat, an uncomfortable grey area which has the advantage of being suggestive without being libellous.

In 1994, Benetton came under intense scrutiny and allegations of cheating surfaced on several occasions. The team was fined heavily and Schumacher was disqualified twice and banned from two races. His season ended when he collided with Damon Hill, some felt deliberately, to collect the world championship. "Schumel Schumi" was born.

Another contributing factor to the "Schumel Schumi" tag was Michael's performance at Silverstone, where he overtook Hill, who had gained pole position, on the parade lap, a rather lame attempt at a psychotrick on his rival and an offence.

Nevertheless, he won the world championship despite participating in just 12 of 16 races and his many brilliant drives had laid down a marker for the future. Here was a natural successor to Ayrton Senna, not just in terms of his talent but in his win-at-all-costs approach to racing. Schumel Schumi, on-the-edge Schumi, clever Schumi, don't-get-caught Schumi.

Michael had realised he would never truly be free of the "Schumel Schumi" tag as long as he stayed at Benetton. Willi Weber, Schumacher's manager, had no shortage of offers for 1996 and beyond. As well as the huge salary, the chance to go to Ferrari offered something special: making Ferrari great again. Winning the championship with them after two decades in the doldrums would obliterate any stains that the 1994 season may have left on his reputation.

The image captured the public imagination, as did many of his sublime victories against superior machinery. Over two seasons, Schumacher rose head and shoulders above the opposition, but after the 1997 European Grand Prix, at Jérez, everything he had worked towards was destroyed by a split second of madness. So much had been riding on the result at Jérez, where Schumacher had to win the last race of the championship to take the title from Jacques Villeneuve.

Ferrari were ready to trumpet the success of their $100 million investment. All the sponsors were poised to go with adverts celebrating their role in the team's glory. Fiat, Philip Morris and Shell had all pumped in huge amounts of money and were just 20 laps from reaping their rewards.

In the back of Schumacher's mind all weekend was one thought: if Jacques Villeneuve finishes in front of me, the championship is gone. Suddenly, the Canadian was alongside him. Two-tenths of a second passed between his initial realisation of this — marked by an instinctive turn of the wheel to the left, away from the path of the Williams — and the second, sharper turn to the right, the one which sought to eliminate the predator, the one that screamed to the watching millions: I must win at all costs.

Two-tenths of a second decided a world championship, two turns of a steering wheel condemned a great champion. Schumacher climbed out of the Ferrari and trudged through the sand to safety. No athlete looks more forlorn than a racing driver removed from the action.

He stands and watches. Three years earlier he had stood like this, waiting to see whether Hill's Williams would come round again after their collision in Adelaide. It had not reappeared and then one of the marshals had told him that Hill was out of his car. He hadn't known how to react then and his face betrayed a confused mixture of all the emotions he thought a new champion should display. Now, his face showed no emotion at all as Villeneuve's car passed by again and again.

There is little doubt that if Schumacher had followed old-fashioned sporting etiquette rather than his own instincts and made a public show of congratulation to Villeneuve as he climbed from his car, so much pain and damage would have been avoided and the whole chain of events, which caused the greatest driver of his generation to fall from grace, would probably never have happened.

> 'So much pain and damage could have been avoided'

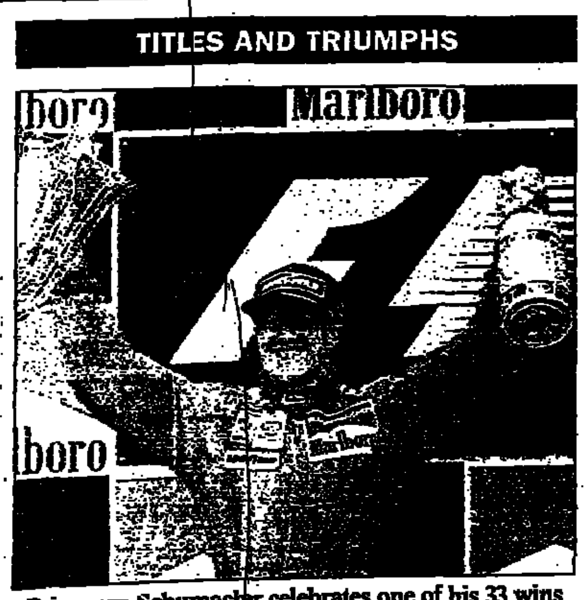
Max Mosley, president of the FIA, Formula One's ruling body, had addressed the drivers before the race, warning them that they would face the severest penalties if they employed any dirty tricks to win the championship.

The FIA's penalty on Schumacher was extremely severe and the history of the sport will show that Schumacher, whatever records he goes on to break, however many wins he may accrue, however much glory he might bring to Ferrari and however great a legend he might leave behind him, was the first man to be thrown out for attempting to foul an opponent. Far from being a slap on the wrist, it was a permanent stain on his character as a sportsman.

According to Clay Reggazoni, a former Ferrari driver: "He drives with arrogance and thinks he is a demi-god. He wants to humiliate his rivals, not just beat them." And Jackie Stewart, three times the world champion, says: "Michael is the best driver but he has something I don't think is healthy. He has something I never had. Real champions don't have to bully."

But Jean Todt, the Ferrari team manager, summed him up differently: "We should all remember that, for all his capabilities, Michael is only human and makes mistakes. He overreacted due to a lack of time to think about it and he said things that he shouldn't have said. But perhaps it was my fault too. Perhaps we at Ferrari should have helped him at that difficult moment. But I think we forgot that with all his ability, he was still just a 29-year-old youngster."

TITLES AND TRIUMPHS



Prize guy: Schumacher celebrates one of his 33 wins

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER is the most successful Formula One driver of his generation but how does he compare to the two modern greats Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost?

Schumacher may have won fewer pole positions but he is acknowledged never to have driven the best car on the grid. The Benetton that gave him the first of his world championships in 1994 was regarded as inferior to the Williams that year and so was his Ferrari behind McLaren last season, when he came so close to beating Mika Hakkinen to the title.

By contrast, Senna and Prost drove for a dominant McLaren team, culminating in the 1988 season when, as team-mates, they won 15 of 16 races. Their ratio of victories-to-races contested is slightly higher than Schumacher's — but only just.

HOW THEY COMPARE

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER: Grands prix: 118. Pole positions: 20. Wins: 33. World championships: 2. Win ratio: 3.57.

AYRTON SENNA: Grands prix: 161. Pole positions: 65. Wins: 41. World championships: 3. Win ratio: 3.90.

ALAIN PROST: Grands prix: 199. Pole positions: 33. Wins: 51. World championships: 4. Win ratio: 3.90.

CLASHES AND CONTROVERSIES



Fatal attraction: the title is decided at Adelaide in 1994

1991: Michael Schumacher joins Jordan but switches to Benetton after one race after a legal challenge from the jilted Eddie Jordan.

1994: Becomes world champion amid allegations that his car was equipped with illegal traction control device.

1994: Disqualified from British Grand Prix after overtaking pole position car of Damon Hill on parade lap and ignored subsequent black flag penalty.

1994: Disqualified from Belgian Grand Prix, banned for two races after skid block of his Benetton was found to be illegal.

1994: Crashes into Hill at decisive final race in Australia to win title with eight victories from 16 races.

1997: Disqualified from the championship, his second place expunged from the records for driving into eventual winner, Jacques Villeneuve, at the deciding European Grand Prix in Jérez in a desperate effort to cling on to his title hopes.

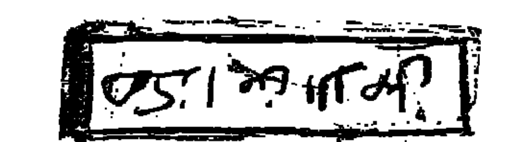
1998: Second in world championship with six victories.

1998: Accuses Hill of "trying to kill him" in Canada and forces Heinz-Harald Frentzen off the circuit, provoking a protest from the Williams team.

1998: Wins British Grand Prix sitting in the pits after failing to stop for 10-second penalty.

1998: Storms into McLaren garage to accuse David Coulthard of "trying to kill him" after running into the rear of the Scot's car in Belgium.





FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Saturday: London Towers 79 Birmingham Bullets 74, Derby Storm 90 Edinburgh Rocks 79; Leicester Riders 74 Greater London Leopards 88, Thames Valley Tigers 89 Sheffield Sharks 98, Worthing Bears 85 Manchester Giants 94

	P	W	L	Pts
Sheffield Sharks	27	25	2	50
Manchester Giants	27	24	3	48
Thames Valley Tigers	27	17	10	34
Derby Storm	25	15	10	30
London Towers	25	15	10	30
Birmingham Bullets	26	15	11	30
Newcastle Eagles	26	15	11	30
Greater London	24	12	12	24
Leicester Riders	25	7	18	14
Edinburgh Rocks	23	6	17	12
Milton Keynes Lions	25	6	19	12
Chester Jets	24	5	19	10
Worthing Bears	26	3	23	6

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NBL): Men: First division: Cardiff C 117 Stevenage 89; Coventry 90 Solihull 78, London T 98 Mid Sussex 108, Plymouth 88 Guildford 83, Westminster 73 Solent 97 **Second division:** Chessington 101 Bournemouth 80 Northampton 73 Reading 84 Portsmouth 77 Swindon 91, Slough 71 Wandsworth 60, Taunton 82 Liverpool 75, Thames Valley 92 Flintshire 83 **Third division:** Mansfield 71 Cambridge 92 Ware 100 Stoke 72 **Women: First division:** Ipswich 77 Spelthorne 51, Leicester 63 Doncaster 61, Northampton 74 NW London 64, Thames Valley 41 Sheffield 67 **Second division:** Cardiff C 37 Manchester 69 Plymouth 70 St Albans 33, Solent 60 Tyneside 58

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Philadelphia 94 San Antonio 98, Denver 100 Dallas 94, Golden State 81 Utah 97 **Saturday:** Phoenix 107 Los Angeles Clippers 104 (OT) Seattle 105 Denver 92

BOWLS

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION: Final (in Stirling): Aberdeen 85 Coatbridge 76 **Second division promotion play-off** (in Dumbarton) West of Scotland 74 Tweedbank 72 **LIBERTY TROPHY: Semi-finals:** Cornwall 101 Hampshire 132; Durham 121 Devon 117

BOXING

NEWCASTLE: WBO super-middleweight title (12rnds): J Calzaghe (Newbridge, holder) bt R Reid (Runcorn) pts **British featherweight title:** J J Irwin (Doncaster, holder) bt A Moon (Liverpool) pts **WBC super-middleweight title:** R Woodhall (Telford, holder) bt V Nardiello (It) rsc 6 **Northern Area middleweight title** (10rnds): S Haley (South Shields) bt I Toby (North Shields) rsc 6th

LAS VEGAS: WBC welterweight title: O de la Hoya (US) bt I Quartey (Ghana) pts **WBC super-bantamweight title:** E Morales (Mex) ko A Chacon (Puerto Rico)

CYCLING

ROAD RACE: Perf's Pedal (Meonstoke, Hampshire, 38 miles): 1, P Wilkes (VC St Martinus) 1hr 50min 10sec 2, R Hurd (ASFRA Flanders) at same time 3, T Bayley (Team Acute 2000) 17sec

TIME TRIAL: Ely and District CC hardriders (Witchford, Cambridgeshire, 25 miles): 1, M Hutchinson (Cambridge University CC) 56min 23sec 2, A Stott (Pete Read Racing) 56 48 3, A Horner (Team Cambridge) 57 43 **Team:** Cambridge University CC 2 11 54

CYCLO-CROSS: British Schools CA open senior race (Bishop Burton College, East Yorkshire, 10 miles): 1, L Fearn (Matlock CC) 59min 15sec 2, A Whitworth (Huddersfield RC) at 7min 10sec 3, P Hinchliffe (Bradford RCC) at 1 lap

GOLF

LA JOLLA, California: Buick Invitational: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): 201 T Woods 68 71 62 202 B R Brown 69 65 68 **203:** F Sutherland 68 68 67 B Glasson 68 67 68 F Lickliter 67 66 70 **204:** S Hoch 69 66 69 T Tryba 65 65 74 **205:** S Simpson 71 68 66, C Riley 72 65 68 D Paulson 67 64 64 D Toms 71, 70 64 B Watts 70, 67 68 **206:** J Maggert 70 67 69 F Minamoto (Japan) 66 74 66 R Estes 71 66 69 O Uresti 71 66 69 C Stadler 71 65 70 J Gore 68 68 70 J Kaye 69 67 70

GLENDALE, California: LPGA Valley of the Stars championship: Leaders after two rounds (United States unless stated): **133:** C Hjalmarsson (Swe) 68, 65 **135:** S Lowe (GB) 68, 67 137 A Sorenstam (Swe) 67, 70 **139:** J Geddes 69, 70 **140:** C Figg-Currier 71, 69 D Eggeling 70 70 **British: 145:** A Nicholas 72 73

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Saturday: Bournville 3 Brooklands 3; Cannock 1 Beeston 0, Guildford 2 Southgate 1 Old Loughtonians 5 East Grinstead 4 Reading 4 Hounslow 2 Teddington 1 Canterbury 1 **Yesterday:** Beeston 0 Bournville 0, Brooklands 1 Cannock 3 Canterbury 5 Old Loughtonians 6, Hounslow 3 Guildford 3 Southgate 2 East Grinstead 0 Teddington 2 Reading 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cannock	15	10	2	1	57	21	32
Canterbury	15	11	2	2	64	35	35
Southgate	15	11	0	4	41	34	33
Reading	15	9	4	3	56	31	31
Guildford	15	7	2	6	50	56	23
Beeston	15	6	4	5	31	30	22
O L'tonians	15	7	1	7	49	51	22
Teddington	15	5	3	7	41	40	18
Bournville	15	4	4	7	30	46	16
Hounslow	15	3	3	9	27	43	12
E Grinstead	16	2	1	13	29	55	7
Brooklands	15	1	2	13	22	60	2

FIRST DIVISION: Eastcote 3 Havant 2; Firebrands 1 Bromley 2; Hull 2 Hampton Magpies 3; Indian Gymkhana 4 Loughborough St 2; Isca 0 Oxford Hawks 6; Lewes 3 Barford Tigers 1; St Albans 3 Oxford Univ 3; Sheffield 1 Doncaster 4; Stourport 2 Chelmsford 1; Surbiton 6 Hampstead 1

SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ancholians 4 Woking 1; Beckenham 2 Tunbridge Wells 1; City of Portsmouth 1 Old Cranleighans 1; Fareham 0 Wimbledon 2; Gore Court 2 High Wycombe 3; Herne Bay 1 Chichester 3; Maidenhead 3 Old Whitgiftians 2; Purley 2 Wokingham 1; Richmond 3 Blackheath 0; Winchester 4 Bournemouth 1

NORTHERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowdon 4 Neston 5; Chester 2 Warrington 3; Harrogate 1 Formby 2; Norton 2 Bon Accord 2; Rhyddings 2; [illegible] 1; Southport 4; Sheffield Bankers 3 Durham University 2

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Coventry and North Warwick 2 North Stafford 1; Edgbaston 4 Northampton Saints 3; Hampton-in-Arden 2 Nottingham 4; Harborne 12 North Norfolk; Khalsa 3 Crewe and West Warwick 1 Shrewsbury 1 Leek 1

WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath Buccs 4 Swansea 1; Cheltenham 0 Robinsons 4; Taunton Vale 2 Weston-super-Mare 1; Whitchurch 12 West Wilts 0; Yeovil and Sherborne 4 Gloucester City 3

PREMIER HOLIDAYS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bishop's Stortford 1 Clacton 2; Bluharts 3 Cambridge University 6; Colchester 3 Cambridge City 1 Crostyx 6 West Herts 0; Ipswich 2 Peterborough Town 1

EHA WOMEN'S CUP: Fifth round: Aldridge 1 Olton 2; Bedingham 0 Fyffes Leicester 5; Canterbury 2 Doncaster 3; Chelmsford 0 Loughborough Students 0 (Chelmsford win 5-4 on pens); Clifton 2 Ipswich 2 (Clifton win 3-2 on pens); Ealing 0 Slough 7; Hightown 6 Tulse Hill 2; Woking Sarks 1 Bradford 2

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Hightown 5 Leicester 2; Ipswich 1 Clifton 3, Slough 5 Olton 3, Sutton 2 Doncaster 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hightown	13	[illegible]	1	1	28	10	35
Slough	13	7	1	2	33	19	22
Clifton	13	5	1	3	22	17	19
Hightown	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	20	15	17
Olton	10	3	3	4	20	27	12
Leicester	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	19	28	8
Sutton	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	8	13	27	6
Doncaster	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	2	17	29	4

FIRST DIVISION: Bradford 2 Chelmsford 1; Canterbury 2 [illegible] 1; Loughborough Students 4 [illegible] 0; [illegible] 1 Sunderland 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelmsford	[illegible]	5	2	3	20	13	17
Loughborough St	[illegible]	5	2	3	19	14	17
Canterbury	[illegible]	5	1	4	27	17	16
Bradford	[illegible]	4	4	2	20	18	16
Aldridge	[illegible]	5	1	4	13	14	16
Trojans	10	3	4	3	21	22	13
Wimbledon	[illegible]	2	4	4	13	19	10
Sunderland	10	1	2	7	8	25	5

SECOND DIVISION: Bracknell 0 Ealing 0, Poynton 4 Hampton 1, Sherwood 1 St Albans 0, Woking 3 Loughtonians 3 **Standings:** 1, Woking 38, 2, Ealing 30, 3, Loughtonians 15, 4, Bracknell 14 (Woking promoted)

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Bury St Edmunds 0 Ipswich 0, Letchworth 1 Bluoharts 2; Sevenoaks 1 Dereham 0 **Postponed:** Ashford v Cambs C **Midlands:** Crimson F 1 Loughborough Students 3; Kettering 1 Olton 2; Luton 1 Belper 1; N Staffs 1 Bedford 2 **North:** Blackburn 1 Chester 4 Don Valley 1 Leyland M 0, Sheffield 1 Liverpool S 0, Wirrington Pk 1 Deeside R 3 **South:** City of Portsmouth 2 W Witney 4, Hendon 0 Tulse Hill 2; Horsham 1 Rover 3, Reading 1 Southampton 2; Winchester 4 Maidenhead 2 **West:** Bournemouth 4 Cheltenham 0, Leominster 2 Redland 5, St Austell 2 Colwall 1; T Vale 1 Exmouth 2

WELSH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Saturday: Cardiff 4 Penarth 2; Cwmtawe 1 Colwyn Bay 2; Newport 3 Swansea 1; UWIC 1 Newtown 3 **Yesterday:** Cwmtawe 0 Newtown 7; Newport 2 Penarth 4; Swansea 4 Cardiff 2; UWIC 0 Colwyn Bay 4 **Standings:** 1, Swansea 20pts 2, Colwyn Bay 16 3, Newtown 14

MOTOR RALLYING

SWEDISH RALLY: Final positions: 1, T Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi) 3hr 29min 15.6sec, 2, C Sainz (Sp, Toyota) at 18 1sec, 3, T Radstrom (Swe, Ford) 37.8, 4, D Auriol (Fr, Toyota) 40.3, 5, R Burns (GB, Subaru) 5 49 3, 6, J Kankkunen (Fin, Subaru) 5 54 4 **Retired:** C McRae (GB, Ford) **Leading championship positions** (after two rounds): 1, Makinen 20pts equal 2, Auriol and Kankkunen 7

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Fourth round

Barrow 16 Leigh 33

Barrow: Tries: Atkinson, Macgorgan, Marriott **Goals:** Holt 2 **Leigh: Tries:** Ingram 2, Donlan, Fairclough, Hardcroft, Lieu **Goals:** Kendrick 4 **Dropped goal:** Kendrick **Att:** 1,485

Bradford 92 Workington 0

Bradford: Tries: McAvoy 4, Withers 4, Lowes 2, Zish 2, Deacon, Fielden, McDermott, Paul, Vaikona **Goals:** Deacon 12 **Att:** 7,593

Castleford 36 Hull 22

Castleford: Tries: Davis 2, Flowers 2, Gay, Orr, Rogers **Goals:** Tonks 4 **Hull: Tries:** Prescott 2, Baldon, Hall **Goals:** Prescott 3 **Att:** 6,107

F'stone Lions 6 Halifax 74

Featherstone Lions: Try: Roberts **Goal:** Frankland **Halifax: Tries:** Mercer 3, Bloem 2, Holroyd 2, Clark, Cinch, Gibson, Moana, Pinkney, Skerrett **Goals:** Holroyd 11 **Att:** 1,533

(at Featherstone Rovers)

Huddersfield 78 Swinton 4

Huddersfield: Tries: Weston 3, Arnold 2, Cook 2, Boughton, Cheetham, Goulding, Lenihan, Loughlin, Sturm, Wright **Goals:** Goulding 10, Cook **Swinton: Try:** Stazicker **Att:** 2,277

Hunslet 10 St Helens 40

Hunslet: Try: Fatnowna **Goals:** Fletcher 3 **St Helens: Tries:** Sculthorpe 2, Stewart 2, Barrow, Cunningham, Davidson, Long **Goals:** Long 4 **Att:** 2,200

Leeds 28 Wigan 18

Leeds: Tries: Godden, Rivett, Sheridan, St Hilaire **Goals:** Harris 5 **Dropped goals:** Harris, Sheridan **Wigan: Tries:** Haughton, Radlinski, Robinson **Goals:** Farrell 2, Florimo **Att:** 18,000

Leigh MR 0 Hull KR 52

Tries: P Fletcher 3, Wray 3, Gene, Gray, Hughes, R Smith **Goals:** Gray 6 **Att:** 1,317

London 84 Doncaster 0

London: Tries: Hammond 3, Bradstreet 2, Edwards, Fleming, Smyth, Timu, Toshack, Young **Goals:** Smyth 10 **Doncaster: Att:** 2,164

Rochdale 19 York 22

Rochdale: Tries: Coult, R Hall, Hudson **Goals:** Fox 3 **Dropped goal:** Fox **York: Tries:** Cain, Deakin, Lambert, Sim **Goals:** J Benn 3 **Att:** 609

Salford 16 Sheffield 6

Salford: Tries: Martin, Smith **Goals:** Blakeley 4 **Sheffield: Try:** Senior **Goal:** Aston **Att:** 2,359

Warrington 50 Featherstone 6

Warrington: Tries: Forster 3, Hunte 3, Kohe-Love, Roach, Wilson **Goals:** Briers 7 **Featherstone: Try:** Thomson **Goal:** Chapman **Att:** 4,335

Whitehaven 24 Lancashire Lynx 6

Whitehaven: Tries: Craig, Chambers, Charlton, Hetherington, Lewthwaite **Goals:** Hetherington 4 **Lancashire Lynx: Goals:** P Jones 3 **Att:** 827

Widnes 28 Keighley 20

Widnes: Tries: Briers, Harris, D Myler, Percival, Savelio **Goals:** Salisbury 4 **Keighley: Tries:** Ramshaw, K Smith, Smith **Goals:** Wood 4 **Att:** 3,003

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Second division: Crosfields 18 Eastmoor 18, Dewsbury Moor 13 Normanton 10

SCHOOLS SPORT

ROWING: Henley Head: Men: Eights: Junior: King's, Canterbury 11min 33sec **Under-16:** King's, Chester 11.53 **Under-15:** Hampton 11 58 **Under-14:** Latymer Upper 14.29 **Quad sculls: Junior:** King's, Rochester 11 46 **Under-16:** Reading Bluecoat 12.39 **Under-15:** Windsor Boys 12.46 **Under-14:** Upper Thames 14.29 **Fours: Junior:** Bedford School 12.30 **Under-16:** Bedford School 12.48 **Women: Quad sculls: Junior:** Headington 13.52 **Under-16:** Henley 13.22 **Under-15:** Headington 13.55 **Under-14:** Headington 14 11 **Fours: Junior:** Headington 14 35

SKIING

VAIL, Colorado: World championships: Women: Slalom: 1, Z Steggall (Aus) 1:33.97, 2, P Wiberg (Swe) 1 34.77; 3, T Bakke (Nor) 1 35.00 **British:** 28, E Carrick-Anderson 1:38 19.

SQUASH

ANTWERP: Flanders Open: Semi-finals: J Power (Can) bt A Gough (Wales) 15-12, 11-15, 15-10, 15-6, M Heath (Scot) bt P Johnson (Eng) 15-12, 8-15, 15-7, 12-15, 15-11 **Final:** Power bt Heath 15-6, 15-5, 15-7

SWIMMING

GLASGOW: FINA World Cup: Seventh round: Men: Freestyle: 50m: C Fydler (Aus) 22.93 **100m:** G Borges (Br) 49.52 **200m:** Borges 1 45 56 **400m:** D Magnas (Gr) 3 49.41 **1,500m:** G Smith (GB) 14.59.33 **British:** 3, J Wilson 15.17.67 **Backstroke: 50m:** S Theloke (Ger) 24.85 **100m:** Theloke 53 48 **200m:** Theloke 1:56 65 **Breaststroke: 50m:** Zhu Yi (China) 27.84 **100m:** F DeBurghgraeve (Bel) 1:00 04 **200m:** Zhu Yi 2:11.26 **British:** 3, A Whitehead (GB) 2 12 51 **Butterfly: 50m:** M Milosevic (Cro). **100m:** J Hickman (GB) 52.14 **200m:** Hickman 1:55.10 **Other British:** 3, R Greenwood 2:02.37 **Medley: 100m:** S Tucker (US) 55.72 **British:** 3, N Poole 56.87 **200m:** Hickman 1 58.55 **400m:** M Gellina (It) 4.21.06 **British:** 2, I Lafferty 4:22.62 **Women: Freestyle: 50m** S Hosack (US) 25 50 **British:** 3, S Rolph (GB) 25 76 **100m:** Rolph 54.93 **200m:** J Lillhage (Swe) 1:59.23 **British:** 2, N Jackson 1.59.29 **400m:** Chen Hua (China) 4:04 50 **British:** 3, C Smart 4:09.56 **800m:** Chen Hua 8.22 35 **British:** 3, M Pelder 8.35 33 **Backstroke: 50m:** K Stefanishyn (Can) 29 07 **100m:** K Stefanyshyn (Can) 1:01 13 **British:** 2, Z Crey 1:01.37 **Breaststroke: 50m** S Riley (Aus) 31.39 **British:** 2, Z Baker 31 55 (British record) **100m:** S Riley (Aus) 1 07.33 **200m:** Riley 2.23.89 **British:** 2, J King 2.30.31 **Butterfly: 50m:** J Sjoberg (Swe) 26 66 **British:** 3, N Jackson 27.50 (British record) **100m:** J Sjoberg 58.16 **200m:** 1, S O'Neill (Aus) 2:08 82 **British:** 3, Pelder 2:11 82 **Medley: 200m:** Y Klochkova (Ukr), 2:10 80 **British:** 3, Rolph 2 13.37 **400m:** 1, Y Klochkova (Ukr) 4 36.24

TENNIS

DUBAI OPEN: Semi-finals: J Golmard (Fr) bt C Moya (Sp) 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, N Kiefer (Ger) bt A Ilie (Aus) 6-3, 7-6 **Final:** Golmard bt Kiefer 6-4, 6-2

SAN JOSE California: Sybase Open: Quarter-finals: P Sampras (US) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 7-5, 6-3; M Chang (US) bt C Ruud (Nor) 6-1, 7-5, C Mamiit (US) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 7-6, 4-6, 6-3 M Philippoussis (Aus) bt J Gimelstob (US) 6-2, 3-6, 7-6.

ST PETERSBURG OPEN: Semi-finals: D Prinosil (Ger) bt J Siemerink (Holl) 6-4, 6-2, M Rosset (Switz) bt M Safin (Russ) 6-3, 6-2 **Final:** Rosset bt Prinosil 6-3, 6-4

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7 30 unless stated

Nationwide Conference

Kidderminster v Kettering (7 45).

Tennent's Scottish Cup

Third-round replay

Ross County v Clydebank

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Fourth-round replay: Stevenage v Cheltenham (7 45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Gresley; Worcester City v Merthyr

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: St Albans v Boreham Wood

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Fourth round

Oldham v Dewsbury (7 45)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

WORTHINGTON CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Wimbledon (0) v Tottenham (0) (8 05) **NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division:** Norwich v Barnsley (7 45); Watford v Huddersfield (7 45) **Second division:** Wigan v Notts County (7 45) **Third division:** Darlington v Hull (7 30) Swansea v Brentford (7 45) **AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section: Semi-final:** Lincoln v Wrexham (7 45) **Southern section: Semi-finals:** Millwall v Gillingham (7 45), Walsall v Cambridge Utd (7 45) **NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE:** Southport v Hereford (7 45), Welling v Rushden and Diamonds (7 45), Yeovil v Woking (7 45) **SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division:** Alloa v Clyde (7 30) Livingston v Arbroath (7 30) **Third division:** Brechin v Montrose (7 30) East Stirling v Albion (7 30)

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: South Wales Police v Maesteg (7 0)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

WORTHINGTON CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Leicester (2) v Sunderland (1) (7 45) **FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP:** Aston Villa v Leeds (7 45), Chelsea v Blackburn (7 45), Everton v Middlesbrough (8 0), Man Utd v Arsenal (8 0), Newcastle v Coventry (7 45) **SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE:** Celtic v Kilmarnock (7 45) **SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division:** Partick v Stirling (7 45) **AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section: Quarter-final:** Rochdale v Halifax (7 45)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Greater London Leopards v Chester Jets (at Brentwood, 7 30), Milton Keynes Lions v Edinburgh Rocks (7.30), Newcastle Eagles v Thames Valley Tigers (7 0) **Uni-ball Trophy: Semi-final, second leg:** Manchester Giants (81) v Sheffield Sharks (77) (7 40) **ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague:** Sheffield Steelers v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7 30)

THURSDAY

RUGBY UNION

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP: Second round: Bristol v Northampton (7 30) **WELSH LEAGUE: First division:** Cross Keys v Merthyr (7 0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Uni-ball Trophy: Semi-final, second leg: Leicester Riders (75) v Derby Storm (85) (8 0) **ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague:** Newcastle Riverkings v London Knights (7 15), Manchester Storm v Bracknell Bees (7 30)

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Sheffield Utd v Bradford (7 45) **Third division:** Cardiff v Halifax (7 30)

RUGBY UNION

A INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: England v Scotland (at Leeds, 7 30), Wales v Ireland (at Ebbw Vale, 7 0) **UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCHES:** England v Scotland (at Orrell, 7 30), Wales v Ireland (at Caerphilly, 2 30) **CLUB MATCHES:** Oxford University v Penguins (7 15), Worcester v Melrose (7 30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Oldham v Featherstone Rovers (7 45)

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Manchester Storm v Bracknell Bees (7 0)

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3 0

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Leicester; Blackburn v Sheffield Wednesday; Coventry v Manchester Utd; Derby v Charlton; Leeds v Everton; Liverpool v West Ham; Middlesbrough v Tottenham; Nottingham Forest v Chelsea; Southampton v Newcastle **NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division:** Barnsley v Grimsby; Bury v Norwich; Crewe v Stockport; Huddersfield v Tranmere; Ipswich v Oxford Utd; Port Vale v Crystal Palace; Queens Park Rangers v Watford; Sunderland v Wolverhampton; Swindon v Portsmouth; West Bromwich v Bristol City **Second division:** Blackpool v Lincoln; Bristol Rovers v Luton; Fulham v Notts County; Gillingham v Colchester; Manchester City v Macclesfield; Millwall v Stoke; Oldham v Northampton; Reading v Preston; Walsall v Chesterfield; Wigan v Bournemouth; Wrexham v York; Wycombe v Burnley **Third division:** Carlisle v Mansfield; Darlington v Plymouth; Exeter v Hartlepool; Hull v Barnet; Leyton Orient v Cambridge Utd; Peterborough v Shrewsbury; Rotherham v Brentford; Scarborough v Swansea; Scunthorpe v Rochdale; Southend v Brighton; Torquay v Chester **NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE:** Barrow v Yeovil; Forest Green v Doncaster; Hayes v Woking; Hereford v Cheltenham; Kingstonian v Kettering; Leek v Stevenage; Morecambe v Dover; Rushden and Diamonds v Hednesford; Southport v Farnborough; Telford v Kidderminster; Welling v Northwich **SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE:** Dundee Utd v Aberdeen; Hearts v St Johnstone; Kilmarnock v Dunfermline; Rangers v Dundee **SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division:** Airdrie v St Mirren; Falkirk v Hibernian; Greenock Morton v Hamilton; Raith v Ayr; Stranraer v Clydebank **Second division:** Alloa v Inverness CT; Arbroath v Stirling; Clyde v East Fife; Livingston v Forfar; Partick v Queen of South **Third division:** Berwick v Queen's Park; Brechin v Stenhousemuir; Cowdenbeath v Montrose; Dumbarton v Albion; Ross County v East Stirling

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2 30 unless stated

LLOYDS TSB FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP: England v Scotland (at Twickenham); Wales v Ireland (at Wembley, 3 0) **ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division:** Fylde v Rotherham **CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP: Second round:** London Scottish v Sale (11 0), Waterloo v Exeter (1 0) **JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division:** Morley v Rosslyn Park (3 0), Newbury v Henley (12 45) Nottingham v Liverpool St Helens (3 0) **Second division north:** Sedgley Park v Sandal; Sheffield v Kendal; Walsall v Hinckley **Second division south:** Barking v Bridgwater (2 15) Bracknell v Redruth (2 15) Cheltenham v Norwich, Esher v Clifton (3 0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby Storm v Sheffield Sharks (7 30) Leicester Riders v Edinburgh Rocks (7 30) London Towers v Newcastle Eagles (7 0) Manchester Giants v Birmingham Bullets (7 10) Worthing Bears v Milton Keynes Lions (8 0) **ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague:** Ayr Scottish Eagles v Newcastle Riverkings (6 30) Nottingham Panthers v London Knights (7 0) **Challenge Cup: Semi-final, first leg:** Sheffield Steelers v Manchester Storm (7 0)

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Wimbledon v Aston Villa (4 0)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Bolton (1 0)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Motherwell v Celtic (6 05)

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: Second division: Coventry v Bristol (3 0) **CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP: Second round:** Gloucester v Leeds (3 0) Moseley v Wharfedale (3 0) Newcastle v Richmond (2 0) Rugby v Bedford (3 0) Saracens v Bath (3 0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Bramley v Keighley; Dewsbury v Leigh (3 30); Doncaster v Swinton; Hull KR v Batley; Hunslet v Workington (3 0); Rochdale v Barrow; Whitehaven v Widnes (3 30); York v Lancashire Lynx

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham Bullets v Worthing Bears (at Aston Villa, 6 0); Edinburgh Rocks v Chester Jets (5 0); Milton Keynes Lions v Greater London Leopards (4 0); Sheffield Sharks v London Towers (4 0)

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Newcastle Riverkings v Sheffield Steelers (6 30) **Challenge Cup: Semi-final, first leg:** Cardiff Devils v Nottingham Panthers (7 0)

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Saturday: Manchester Storm 3 Ayr Scottish Eagles 1, Nottingham Panthers 6 Bracknell Bees 6 (OT) Sheffield Steelers 7 London Knights 1

	P	W	L	DOL	F	A	Pts
Manchester	35	26	5	1	3	122	70	56
Cardiff	35	25	8	0	2	125	78	52
Nottingham	35	20	13	1	2	122	120	43
Bracknell	34	14	15	2	3	109	122	33
Ayr	32	14	14	3	1	102	101	32
Sheffield	34	13	16	3	2	110	111	31
Newcastle	34	10	20	2	2	93	127	24
London	34	8	20	2	4	94	151	22

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: New Jersey 2 Washington 3, New York Islanders 1 Nashville 2, New York Rangers 1 Carolina 2, Chicago 1 Detroit 2, Calgary 4 Boston 2, Anaheim 2 Dallas 3 **Saturday:** Colorado 1 Phoenix 4, Toronto 2 Chicago 6, Montreal 4 Florida 0, Ottawa 2 Washington 1, Tampa Bay 1 San Jose 3, Buffalo 2 New York Islanders 2 (OT), New Jersey 6 Carolina 4, Nashville 2 Pittsburgh 3 (OT), St Louis 2 Edmonton 3, Los Angeles 2 Dallas 3, Vancouver 3 Boston 1

Eastern Conference

Northeast division	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Ottawa	29	16	8	152	115	66
Toronto	30	20	2	172	161	62
Buffalo	25	18	10	143	113	60
Boston	22	23	9	125	127	53
Montreal	21	27	8	123	147	50
Atlantic division						
Philadelphia	28	12	12	166	109	68
New Jersey	30	18	5	158	136	66
Pittsburgh	29	15	7	163	136	65
NY Rangers	20	25	7	138	145	47
NY Islanders	16	33	6	129	168	38
Southeast division						
Carolina	25	21	9	145	141	59
Florida	20	20	13	132	142	53
Washington	22	27	4	133	137	48
Tampa Bay	11	38	4	107	192	26

Western Conference

Central division	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Detroit	28	23	4	161	132	60
St Louis	21	22	9	141	135	51
Nashville	19	30	5	123	171	43
Chicago	15	32	8	121	173	38
Northwest division						
Colorado	29	21	4	145	130	62
Edmonton	21	24	8	145	138	50
Calgary	19	28	8	137	161	46
Vancouver	18	29	7	140	165	43
Pacific division						
Dallas	32	10	8	147	103	72
Phoenix	29	13	10	140	104	68
San Jose	20	22	12	127	124	52
Anaheim	21	23	9	137	132	51
Los Angeles	20	30	4	128	146	44

Marc Rosset celebrates winning his first title of the season after beating David Prinosil 6-3, 6-4 in the St Petersburg Open yesterday. Photograph: Anatoly Maltsev / EPA

CRICKET

One-day international

New Zealand v South Africa

DUNEDIN (New Zealand won toss). New Zealand beat South Africa by three wickets

SOUTH AFRICA

G Kirsten b Allott	10
H H Gibbs b Allott	16
J H Kallis c Astle b Allott	100
*W J Cronje c Horne b Larsen	20
J N Rhodes c and b Larsen	22
D M Benkenstein c Allott b Cairns	0
S M Pollock run out	9
†M V Boucher b Vettori	1
L Klusener run out	28
P L Symcox b Allott	0
A A Donald not out	0
Extras (lb 1, w 2, nb 2)	5
Total (49.1 overs)	211

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-38, 3-69, 4-96, 5-107, 6-147, 7-157, 8-210, 9-210.

BOWLING: Allott 9-1-35-4, Nash 10-0-36-0; Larsen 10-0-39-2; Cairns 7.1-0-46-1, Harris 7-0-33-0; Vettori 6-0-21-1.

NEW ZEALAND

M J Horne c Pollock b Kallis	5
N J Astle b Klusener	95
C D McMillan c Kallis b Donald	8
†A C Parore c Boucher b Donald	0
C L Cairns run out	6
M D Bell c Rhodes b Donald	37
C Z Harris not out	34
*D Nash run out	12
D L Vettori not out	6
Extras (b 3, lb 2, w 5, nb 3)	13
Total (7 wkts, 49.1 overs)	215

G R Larsen and G I Allott did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-41, 3-45, 4-56, 5-146, 6-171, 7-202.

BOWLING: Pollock 8-0-40-0; Kallis 9.1-0-38-1; Donald 10-0-42-3; Klusener 8-0-35-1; Cronje 4-0-19-0; Symcox 10-0-38-0.

Umpires: D B Cowie and R S Dunne.

International match

Zimbabwe A v England A

BULAWAYO (final day of five). England A beat Zimbabwe A by 193 runs

ENGLAND A: First Innings 383 (M B Loye 133, V S Solanki 65, D L Maddy 64; A R Whittall 4 for 88, B C Strang 4 for 107). Second Innings 310-6 dec (M P Vaughan 131, A Flintoff 88)

ZIMBABWE A: First Innings 223 (A M Blignaut 58, D P Viljoen 57, G P Swann 4 for 52)

Second Innings

T R Gripper c Maddy b Cosker	28
C B Wishart c Loye b Lewry	0
T N Madondo c Solanki b Swann	57
G J Whittall lbw b Swann	16
S V Carlisle lbw b Swann	32
D P Viljoen c and b Swann	39
A M Blignaut c Solanki b Cosker	0
B C Strang b Cosker	39
*A R Whittall c Swann b Cosker	11
†C P Gurr lbw b Lewry	21
A G Huckle not out	20
Extras (lb 7, w 2, nb 5)	14
Total	277

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-72, 3-94, 4-132, 5-153, 6-153, 7-201, 8-222, 9-237

BOWLING: Lewry 17-9-32-2; Harmison 23-9-53-0; Flintoff 15-7-25-0; Swann 43-13-10?-4, Cosker 34-17-54-4, Vaughan 3-2-2-0

Umpires: G R Evans and E J Gilmour

Tour match

Wellington Emerging Players v England Under-19

WELLINGTON (second day of three): Wellington Emerging Players, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 138 runs behind England Under-19

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings

J K Maunders lbw b Cross	55
*I N Flanagan b Rampling	46
I R Bell c L Morgan b Edwards	95
M A Carberry c Consedine b Cross	46
G R Haywood run out	13
T J Mills c Golder b Edwards	6
M J Symington b Patel	44
J R Feanck c Rampling b Drake	50
†M A Wallace c Edwards b Rampling	10
R K J Dawson b Edwards	16
M J A Whiley not out	1
Extras (b 10, lb 10, w 2, nb 16)	38
Total	420

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-88, 2-129, 3-234, 4-25?, 5-280, 6-291, 7-387, 8-387, 9-405

BOWLING: Rampling 30-7-86-2, Cross 20-1-44-2, Edwards 21.5-6-70-3, Patel 30-7-93-1, Consedine 3-0-25-0, Drake 8-0-22-1, De Silva 1-0-9-0

WELLINGTON: First Innings

*†L Morgan c Maunders b Haywood	60
S de Silva lbw b Symington	21
J Consedine c Carberry b Feanck	91
S Fairle c Bell b Feanck	61
R Morgan not out	18
S B Golder not out	3
Extras (b 16, lb 8, nb 4)	28
Total (4 wkts)	282

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-121, 3-257, 4-282

BOWLING: Whiley 4-1-5-0, Symington 19-5-39-1, Feanck 14-2-49-2, Haywood 18-5-40-1, Dawson 18-2-75-0, Flanagan 13-5-23-0, Mills 8-2-27-0.

Umpires: R D S Alexander and I W Shine

TOUR MATCH: Cochin (final day of three): Pakistanis 247-9 dec and 295-7 dec (Saeed Anwar 99, Wajahatullah Wasti 88, A Padmanabhan 5-80), India Board President's XI 282 and 222 Match drawn

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Bedford 25 Wasps 23

Bedford: Tries: Richards, Stewart, Underwood **Cons:** Howard 2 **Pen:** Howard **Dropped goal:** Howard **Wasps: Tries:** Dallaglio, King, Reed **Con:** King **Pens:** King 2 **HT:** 12-15

Gloucester 20 Harlequins 31

Gloucester: Tries: Beim, penalty try **Cons:** Mapletoft 2 **Pens:** Mapletoft 2 **Harlequins: Tries:** Llewellyn, O'Leary, Vincent **Cons:** Schuster 2 **Pens:** Schuster 4 **HT:** 17-13

Leicester 31 London Irish 10

Leicester: Tries: Lloyd, Lougheed **Pens:** Stransky 7 **London Irish: Try:** Venter **Con:** Woods **Pen:** Woods **HT:** 23-3

London Scot 27 Newcastle 17

London Scot: Tries: Eastcott, Fenn, Hunter, Johnstone **Cons:** De Beer 2 **Pen:** De Beer **Newcastle: Tries:** Legg, Shaw **Cons:** Wilkinson 2 **Pen:** Wilkinson **HT:** 15-0 **Att:** 2,101

Richmond 29 Sale 24

Richmond: Tries: Brown, Chapman, Fisher **Con:** Vaili **Pens:** Vaili 4 **Sale: Tries:** Hanley 2, Howarth, Mallinder **Cons:** Howarth 2 **HT:** 11-12 **Att:** 4,595

Saracens 48 W Hartlepool 27

Saracens: Tries: Diprose 3, Bracken, Grayson, Pienaar, Thirlby **Cons:** Johnson 4, Thirlby **Pen:** Johnson **W Hartlepool: Tries:** Sheehan, Tangaroa **Con:** [illegible] **Pens:** [illegible] **HT:** 20-14 **Att:** 5,872

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Northampton	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Saracens	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
London Irish	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wasps	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Newcastle	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bath	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Harlequins	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
*Richmond	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gloucester	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
London Scot	19	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sale	19	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bedford	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
W Hartlepool	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4

* Richmond deducted 2pts

LEADING SCORERS: 279: J Schuster (Harlequins, [illegible]) **230:** [illegible] **202:** J Stransky (Leicester) **201:** [illegible] **193:** M Catt (Bath) **191:** N Woods (London Irish) **190:** J Wilkinson (Newcastle) **169:** M Mapletoft (Gloucester) **156:** P Grayson (Northampton) **149:** S Howarth (Sale) **Tries: 11:** Woods **10:** N Back (Leicester), J Bentley?, [illegible] (Northampton) **9:** B Daniel (Saracens), R Underwood (Bedford).

Second division

Bristol 20 Leeds 5

Bristol: Try: [illegible] **Pens:** Knox 3 **Pen:** [illegible] **Dropped goal:** Knox **Leeds: Try:** Dunham **HT:** [illegible]

Coventry 35 Blackheath 8

Coventry: Tries: Gallagher, [illegible] **Cons:** Gallagher 2 **Pens:** Gallagher 2 **Dropped goal:** [illegible] **Blackheath: Try:** [illegible] **Pen:** [illegible] **HT:** [illegible] **Att:** 900

Moseley 35 Rugby 20

Moseley: Tries: A Binns, Martin, [illegible], Simpson **Cons:** S Jones 3 **Pens:** S Jones 3 **Rugby: Tries:** Saunders 2, M Ellis **Con:** D Evans **Pen:** Davis **HT:** 15-5

Rotherham 47 Orrell 10

Rotherham: Tries: Lax 4, Dudley, [illegible] **Try:** Scully **Cons:** Threlfall 3, [illegible] **Pens:** [illegible] 2 **Orrell: Tries:** [illegible] **HT:** [illegible]

Wakefield 16 London Welsh 30

Wakefield: Tries: [illegible], Summers **Pens:** [illegible] 2 **London Welsh: Tries:** [illegible] **Cons:** Lee 3 **Pens:** Lee 3 **HT:** [illegible] **Att:** 600

Waterloo 11 Exeter 13

Waterloo: Try: Graham **Pens:** L Griffiths 2 **Exeter: Try:** [illegible] **Con:** B Easson **Pens:** B Easson 2 **HT:** 6-0 **Att:** 200

Worcester 56 Fylde 0

Worcester: Tries: Morris 2, Holford, Jenner, Le Bas, McLoughlin, penalty try, [illegible] **Cons:** Le Bas 4, Malone **Pens:** Le Bas 2 **HT:** 18-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Worcester	18	16	0	2	498	224	30
Bristol	17	14	0	3	527	248	28
Rotherham	17	13	0	4	448	224	26
London Welsh	18	12	0	6	442	385	24
Leeds	18	10	0	8	441	246	20
Waterloo	18	10	0	8	311	366	20
Exeter	17	9	1	7	366	388	19
Coventry	17	9	0	8	415	354	18
Orrell	18	8	0	10	340	295	16
Moseley	18	7	0	11	370	433	14
Rugby	17	7	0	10	259	346	14
Wakefield	18	3	0	15	309	549	6
Fylde	17	2	1	14	295	562	5
Blackheath	18	2	0	16	228	559	4

* Worcester deducted 2pts

LEADING SCORERS: 186: S Gough (Coventry, [illegible]) **178:** [illegible] (Leeds) **161:** [illegible] (Waterloo) **156:** B Easson (Exeter) **Tries: 12:** [illegible] (Bristol) **11:** B Wade (Rotherham) **9:** [illegible] (London Welsh) **8:** [illegible] (Rotherham), [illegible] (Rotherham), [illegible] (Leeds)

Jewson National League

First division

Henley 43 Nottingham 24

Henley: Tries: [illegible] 2, Maudsley, [illegible] **Cons:** [illegible] 4 **Nottingham: Tries:** Campbell, penalty try, [illegible] **Cons:** C Atkinson 3 **Pen:** C Atkinson **HT:** [illegible]

Lydney 29 Wharfedale 18

Lydney: Tries: Cox, S Edwards, D Edwards **Con:** Osborne **Pen:** Osborne **Wharfedale: Tries:** [illegible], Evans **Con:** [illegible] **Pens:** [illegible] 2 **HT:** 7-7 **Att:** [illegible]

Morley 17 Manchester 23

Morley: Try: [illegible] **Pens:** Bamber 4 **Manchester: Tries:** [illegible], Burgess **Cons:** [illegible] **Pens:** Swindells 2, [illegible] **HT:** [illegible] **Att:** [illegible]

Newbury 41 Camberley 5

Newbury: Tries: [illegible] 2, McCormick 2, [illegible], Rimmer **Cons:** Perrygo 4 **Pens:** Perrygo **Camberley: Try:** Burns **HT:** 29-0 **Att:** 750

Otley 12 Harrogate 12

Otley: Tries: [illegible] **Con:** Clappison **Harrogate: Tries:** Reed, Whyley **Con:** [illegible] **HT:** [illegible]

Reading 10 Liverpool St H 31

Reading: Tries: [illegible] 2 **Liverpool St H: Tries:** [illegible] **Con:** Glynn **Pens:** Glynn [illegible] **HT:** 5-23 **Att:** 200

Rosslyn Park 42 B'ham/Solihull 0

Rosslyn Park: Tries: Benson 2, Manuel 2, A Maddock, [illegible] **Cons:** Knowles 3 **Pens:** Knowles 2 **HT:** [illegible]

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcester?	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	629	265	34
Henley	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	462	[illegible]	34
Otley	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	366	319	[illegible]
Rosslyn Park	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	375	292	[illegible]
Newbury	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	351	321	[illegible]
Nottingham	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	349	20
Lydney	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	19
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	400	326	19
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	16
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	409	15
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	324	371	12
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	465	11
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	260	[illegible]	[illegible]

SECOND DIVISION NORTH: [illegible]

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	230	38
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	502	249	34
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	261	32
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	477	[illegible]	26
[illegible]	[illegible]	12	[illegible]	[illegible]	440	411	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	21
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	364	21
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	452	20
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11	[illegible]	292	14
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	477	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	562	15
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	565	9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	756	4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	271	700	2

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH: Barking 44 Plymouth [illegible]; [illegible] Weston-super-Mare [illegible]; [illegible] Cheltenham [illegible]; [illegible] Barnham 47 [illegible]; [illegible] Norwich [illegible]

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esher	20	18	0	2	649	242	36
N Walsham	21	13	0	3	484	230	36
Bracknell	20	18	0	2	451	254	36
Barking	19	14	0	5	478	252	28
Met Police	21	12	1	8	388	402	25
Weston-s-Mare	21	9	1	11	349	403	19
Norwich	20	9	0	11	235	327	18
Tabard	21	8	1	12	350	367	17
Bridgwater	20	6	2	12	350	452	14
Clifton	19	6	1	12	295	362	13
Redruth	20	6	1	13	372	462	13
Plymouth	21	6	1	14	359	507	13
Cheltenham	20	4	0	16	274	499	8
Havant	21	4	0	17	262	607	8

SOUTH WEST: Launceston 75 Berry Hill 6, Matson 36 Stroud 10; Old Patesians 15 Gloucester OB 12; Penzance-Newlyn 81 Keynsham 0, Torquay Athletic 8 Maidenhead 36 **MIDLANDS:** Camp Hill 13 Hereford 3; Kenilworth 3 Broadstreet 32; Syston 28 [illegible] Northampton 6 **NORTH:** Sandington 3 Middlesbrough 19, Broughton Park 23 Huddersfield 25; [illegible] Wigton 0; Macclesfield 8 [illegible] 9; [illegible] 36 Tynedale 23; Widnes 9 [illegible] 24 **NPI CUP: Quarter-finals:** [illegible] 42 Maidstone 6; Barnstaple 17 Basingstoke 13; Dudley Kingswinford 10 [illegible] 3; [illegible] 42 Driffield 15 **TETLEY'S BITTER VASE: Quarter-finals: North:** Scarborough 21 [illegible]; [illegible] 25 Heaton Moor 5 **South:** [illegible] 12; St Just 3 Old Tiffinians 14 [illegible] **CLUB MATCH:** Oxford University 34 Impoundment? [illegible] Medics 0 **WOMEN'S BREAD FOR LIFE CUP: Semi-finals:** Richmond 5 Old Leamingtonians 7; Saracens 1st XV 53 Saracens 2nd XV 0

SWALEC Cup

Fifth round

Cwmllynfell 0 Pontypridd 41

Pontypridd: Tries: Enoch, S Lewis, G Lewis, Geraint, P Lewis, Tau, M Taylor **Cons:** Wyatt 4 **Pen:** Wyatt **HT:** 0-29

Llanelli 100 Ynysybwl 0

Llanelli: Tries: Hayward 2, Jenkins 2, McBryde 2, Proctor 2, A Thomas 2, N Boobyer, I Boobyer, Hedges, M Thomas, Wardlow, D Williams **Cons:** S Jones 10 **HT:** [illegible]

Nantymoel 0 Bridgend 29

Bridgend: Tries: Durston 2, Cull, Manning, G Thomas **Cons:** Cull 2 **HT:** [illegible]

Welsh League

Premier division

Neath 63 Aberavon 24

Neath: Tries: D Williams 3, Stevenson 2, C Evans, Gerrard, D Jones, S Williams **Cons:** M Pearce 6 **Pens:** M Pearce 2 **Aberavon: Tries:** Jacobs, P Jones, [illegible] **Cons:** C Reed 3 **Pen:** C Reed **HT:** 29-10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Llanelli	10	7	0	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pontypridd	9	7	0	2	348	[illegible]	7	[illegible]	29
Neath	11	7	0	4	315	[illegible]	6	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ebbw Vale	9	6	0	3	241	192	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Caerphilly	10	4	1	5	213	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Newport	11	4	0	6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bridgend	9	3	1	5	192	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aberavon	11	1	0	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

First division

Abertillery 12 UWIC 11

Abertillery: Tries: [illegible] **Con:** Withers **UWIC: Try:** [illegible] **Pens:** [illegible] 2 **HT:** 12-0

Dunvant 73 Rumney 0

Dunvant: Tries: [illegible], Howells, Jenkins, Middleton, A Thomas, L Williams **Cons:** [illegible] **HT:** [illegible]

Maesteg 19 Cross Keys 22

Maesteg: Tries: A Durston, F Lewis **Pens:** A Davies 3 **Cross Keys: Try:** [illegible] **Con:** Babb **Pens:** Babb 5 **HT:** [illegible]

Newbridge 6 Merthyr 24

Newbridge: Pens: Watkins 2 **Merthyr: Tries:** Bryant, Price, G Thomas **Cons:** Bryant 3 **Pen:** Bryant **HT:** [illegible]

Pontypool 62 Llandovery 17

Pontypool: Tries: M McCarthy 2, [illegible], Hurd, J Griffin, James, [illegible], F Yorath? **Cons:** [illegible] **Pen:** [illegible] **Llandovery: Tries:** M Jones, [illegible] **Cons:** Harries 2 **Pen:** [illegible] **HT:** [illegible]

Tondu 6 Bonymaen 28

Tondu: Pens: Webster 2 **Bonymaen: Tries:** M John, P John, G Jones, [illegible] **Con:** [illegible] **Pens:** G Jones 2 **HT:** [illegible]

Tredegar 17 Blackwood 8

Tredegar: Tries: M Jones, [illegible] **Cons:** M Jones 2 **Pen:** M Jones **Blackwood: Try:** Brown **Pen:** Lay **HT:** 3-3

Treorchy 67 S Wales Police 19

Treorchy: Tries: D Lloyd 2, Morris 2, Bevan, Cicero, P Jones, Riggs, Roberts, Williams **Cons:** D Evans 7 **Pen:** D Evans **S Wales Police: Tries:** Cox 2, S Pritchard **Cons:** Cox 2 **HT:** 36-0

SECOND DIVISION: Abercynon 13 Ystradgynlais 14; Llantrisant 38 Wrexham 0; Mountain Ash 6 Whitland 20; Narberth 56 Pyle 0; Carmarthen? [illegible] 27 Kenfig Hill 0; St Peters 12 Rhymney 27; Tenby Utd 19 Llanharan 18

Anglo-Welsh club matches

Bath 44 Cardiff 32

Bath: Tries: Adebayo 2, Cooper, Guscott, Peters, Tindall **Cons:** Perry 4 **Pens:** Perry 2 **Cardiff: Tries:** Botham 2, Hall, Jarvis **Cons:** Jarvis 3 **Pens:** Jarvis 2 **HT:** 20-10

Swansea 58 Northampton 24

Swansea: Tries: Taylor 2, A Thomas 2, Weatherley 2, S Davies, Loader, Rees **Cons:** A Thomas 5 **Pen:** A Thomas **Northampton: Tries:** Bramhall, D Malone, Phillips **Cons:** A Hepher 3 **Pen:** A Hepher **HT:** 34-10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swansea	[illegible]	16	0	[illegible]	734	472	32
Leicester	[illegible]	16	0	6	607	379	32
Saracens	[illegible]	15	1	6	631	494	31
Northampton	[illegible]	14	[illegible]	5	569	512	23
Cardiff	21	13	0	8	588	474	26
London Irish	21	12	0	9	530	436	24
Bath	[illegible]	12	0	10	526	503	24
Wasps	[illegible]	11	1	10	582	472	23
Newcastle	[illegible]	11	0	9	520	457	22
* Richmond	[illegible]	11	1	8	518	542	21
Harlequins	[illegible]	10	0	10	483	508	20
Gloucester	[illegible]	8	1	13	440	5050	17
Sale	21	7	0	14	485	595	14
London Scot	21	7	0	14	390	567	14
Bedford	21	3	0	18	419	691	6
W Hartlepool	21	2	0	19	358	766	4

* Richmond deducted 2pts

Tennent's Velvet Cup

Quarter-finals

Kelso 38 Preston Lodge 10

Kelso: Tries: J Roberts 2, Fleming, G Laing **Cons:** Aitcheson 3 **Pens:** Aitcheson 4 **Preston Lodge: Tries:** Henderson, Satchwel **HT:** 23-0

Melrose 42 Kilmarnock 13

Melrose: Tries: Broughton, Chrystie, Clark, Nichol, penalty try, C Redpath, B Ruthven **Cons:** Moffat? 2 **Pen:** [illegible] **Kilmarnock: Try:** Tweedie **Con:** Stewart **Pens:** Stewart 2 **HT:** 22-13

Stewartry 19 Gala 35

Stewartry: Tries: Cullender, Hunter **Pens:** Wallace 2 **Dropped goal:** Wallace **Gala: Tries:** J Amos, C Bothwell?, Parker, F Scott, C Townsend **Cons:** C Paterson 2 **Pens:** C Paterson 2 **HT:** 6-7

Fifth round

Hawick 8 Boroughmuir 16

Hawick: Try: Cook **Pen:** Murdie **Boroughmuir: Tries:** C Howarth, M Murray **Pen:** C Howarth **Dropped goal:** Kiddie **Att:** 570

Tennent's Velvet Premiership

First division

Watsonians 9 Glasgow Hawks 9

Watsonians: Pens: Aitchison 3 **Glasgow Hawks: Pens:** E Martin 3 **HT:** 6-0 **Att:** 500

POSTPONED: Currie v West of Scotland

AIB LEAGUE: First division: Ballymena 16 Buccaneers 34; Blackrock 10 Young Munster 7; Galwegians 50 Clontarf 21; Garryowen 15 Lansdowne 17; St Mary's 17 Shannon 12; Terenure 8 Cork Constitution 14

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lansdowne?	8	6	0	2	160	121	12
St Mary's	8	5	0	3	179	116	10
Garryowen	8	5	0	3	157	114	10
Buccaneers	7	5	0	2	141	122	10
Cork Const	7	4	0	3	163	123	8
Young Munster	8	3	1	4	106	92	7

SECOND DIVISION: Dolphin 26 Sunday's Well 5; Greystones 34 DLSP 36; Malone 18 Portadown 3; City of Derry 27 Ballynahinch 9; Old Crescent 22 Dungannon 29; Old Wesley 14 Derry 17; Skerries 9; Bective Rangers 9; Wanderers 13; UCD 15

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Stade Français 37 Bourgoin 25; Castres 69 Nîmes 16; Biarritz 27 Narbonne 6 **Pool two:** Brive 38 Bordeaux? 15; Montferrand 13; Agen 30 Toulon 25; Dax 22 Béziers 14; Auch 27 Perpignan 29 **Pool three:** La Rochelle 33 Brive? 13; Grenoble 22 Colomiers 3; Toulouse 40 Pau 3; Périgueux 16 Racing Club 3

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Austria								
Kitzbühel	80	178	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-5	14/2
Obergurgl	60	270	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	14/2
St Anton	130	440	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	14/2
Canada								
Lake Louise	138	143	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-2	11/2
France								
Alpe d'Huez	161	300	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	2	11/2
Argentière	120	320	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-5	9/2
Avoriaz	150	230	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-4	12/2
Flaine	170	400	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-6	11/2
La Clusaz	120	240	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-6	11/2
Les Arcs	178	262	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-7	10/2
Megève	170	270	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-11	9/2
Méribel	100	180	Good	Fair	Powder	Sun	-7	11/2
Tignes	142	270	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-15	11/2
Val d'Isère	150	320	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-12	11/2
Italy								
Cortina	55	70	Fair	Open	Varied	Fair	-3	10/2
Livigno	70	160	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-9	9/2
Madonna	55	110	Good	Open	Heavy	Fine	-1	9/2
Switzerland								
Davos	130	210	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-12	14/2
Crans Montana	120	470	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-6	11/2
Grindelwald	90	250	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-13	14/2
Murren	140	300	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-10	14/2
Saas Fee	90	335	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-2	10/2
St Moritz	45	140	Good	Fair	Crusty	Cloud	-4	9/2
Villars	120	250	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-5	11/2
Wengen	120	170	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-11	14/2
United States								
Aspen	110	138	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	0	10/2

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes U = upper slopes

ATHLETICS

Track and field

NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA, Birmingham: BUPA Grand Prix (Great Britain unless stated). **Men: 400m British team qualifier:** 1, D Ladejo 46.69sec; 2, A Patrick 46 77, 3, R Knowles 47.48, 4, D Naismith 47.49; 5, L Baird 48 17, 6, M Douglas 49 08 **2,000m:** 1, L Rotich (Ken) 4min 56.09sec, 2, A Diaz (Sp) 4.56.87, 3, S Rono (Ken) 4 58 73; 4, D Komen (Ken) 4 59 93 5, A El Kaouch (Mor) 5 04 37, 6, M Amyne (Mor) 5 06 38 **60m hurdles:** 1, D Ross (US) 7 48, 2, C Jackson 7 50, 3, T Sogaczewski (Pol) 7 53, 4, A Garcia (Cuba) 7 54; 5, T Dees (US) 7 57, 6, R Balie 7.60. **Women: 200m:** 1, K Merry 22 83, 2, J Cuthbert (Jam) 23.28, 3, S Anderson 23 79; 4, S Wilhelmy 24 00; 5, E Maher (Ire) 24 67 **Under-17: 400m:** 1, G Dean 49 87, 2, P Roberts 50 39, 3, T Roe 50 84 **400m:** 1, O Kotlyarova (Russ) 51.33 2, A Guevara (Mex) 51 45, 3, D Hemmings (Jam) 52 89; 4, Y Kulikova (Rus) 52 91, 5, S Richards (Jam) 52 91, 6, S Dudgeon 53 58 **400m British team qualifier:** 1, M Thomas 53 62, 2, V Day 54 17; 3, L Whitehead 54 33, 4, C Easton 54.54, 5, D Higgins 55 20, 6, K Goodwin 55 76 **Shot:** 1, L Koeman (Holl) 18 42m, 2, V Fedyushina (Ukr) 17 82; 3, E Adriano (Br) 17 63, 4, J Oakes 17 42, 5, M Augee 16 60, 6, P Roles 15 90 **Triple jump:** 1, S Kasparkova (Cz) 14 76m, 2, A Hansen 14 76, 3, I Prandjeva (Bul) 14 14, 4, R Mateescu (Rom) 13 86 **Under-15: 1,000m:** 1, L Thomas 3 00 72, 2, J Lando 3 02.76, 3, K Rodmell 3 07.59, 4, D Whitaker 3 11 46, 5, A McFarlane 3 14.01, 6, A Perniss 3 16 87

CRYSTAL PALACE: Indoor field events meeting: Winners: Men: High jump: M Lloyd (Bexley Borough) 2.10m **Pole vault:** S Gascoigne (Blackheath) 4.30m **Long jump:** S Phillips (Rugby) 7 35m **Shot:** P Edwards (unattached) 17 15m **Women: High jump:** D Miknevicute (Shaftesbury Barnet) 1 88m **Pole vault:** K Dowsett (Woodford Green and Essex Ladies) 3m **Long jump:** R Kirby (Woodford Green and Essex Ladies) 5 56m **Shot:** C Johnson (Windsor, Slough and Eton) 13 18m

NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA, Birmingham: Indoor representative match: Men: 60m: 1, J Thomas (Army) 6 83sec, 2, G Beasley (Brunel) 6.98, 3, J Chatt (Loughborough) 6.99 **300m:** 1, J Stewart (Loughborough) 34 05, 2, M Douglas (Brunel) 34 29, 3, J Chatt (Loughborough) 34.22 **600m:** 1, T Williams (Loughborough) 1 20.59, 2, G Dunson (Royal Air Force) 1:22 08, 3, S O'Leary (Birmingham) 1 22.19. **1,000m:** 1, M Spraight (Brunel) 2:27 18, 2, I Grime (Loughborough) 2:27 38, 3, M Skinner (Brunel) 2:28.09 **3,000m:** 1, R Scanlon (Loughborough) 8 10 64, 2, M O'Dowd (Loughborough) 8.10 96 3, I Grime (Loughborough) 8.28 97 **60m hurdles:** 1, M Elliot (Brunel) 8.20 2, M Douglas (Brunel) 8 35, 3, C Rawlinson (Loughborough) 8 37 **Pole vault:** 1, R Cooper (Brunel) 4 40m, 2, L Walker (Loughborough) 4.30, 3, R Kingman (Royal Air Force) 4 20 **High jump:** 1, R Aspden (Brunel) 2 17m, 2, J Roberts (Royal Navy) 1 95, 3, A Shepherd (Loughborough) 1 90 **Long jump:** 1, A Walker (Army) 7 07m 2, F Corcoran (Brunel) 6 73 3, P Upton (Birmingham) 6.30 **Shot:** 1, M Proctor (Royal Air Force) 15.52m 2, E Udechuku (Loughborough) 16.71 3, S Ryder (Brunel) 15.21 **4 x 200m relay:** 1, Loughborough 1.27 71 2, Brunel 1.28 75 3, Army 1 29 62 **Match result:** 1, Brunel, 2, Loughborough, 3, Army **Women: 60m:** 1, D Benjamin (Army) 7 57, 2, M Purkiss (Loughborough) 7 66, 3, K Denham (Birmingham) 8 09 **300m:** 1, M Purkiss (Loughborough) 39 49; 2, T Dunlun (Brunel) 41 18, 3, C Brown (Birmingham) 41 26 **600m:** 1, M Bjone (Loughborough) 1 31 30 2, A Hutchinson (Loughborough) 1 37 03 3, C Brown (Birmingham) 2 33 22 **1,000m:** 1, G Dunleavy (Royal Air Force) 3 12 55 2, R Taylor (Brunel) 3 13 29, 3, K Burwood (Brunel) 3 13 83 **60m hurdles:** 1, S Porter (Birmingham) 8 86, 2, S Male (Brunel) 9 03 3, C Pearson (Loughborough) 9 49 **High jump:** 1, M Dunkley (Loughborough) 1 85m, 2, L McConnell (Loughborough) 1 75 3, S Paul (Army) 1.60. **Long jump:** 1, D Benjamin (Army) 5.25m, 2, G O'Mahoney (Loughborough) 5 17, 3, D Adams (Brunel) 5.16 **Shot:** 1, E Merry (Birmingham) 12 93m; 2, C Everett (Brunel) 10 95 3, H Comeby (Birmingham) 10 07 **4 x 200m relay:** 1, Birmingham 1 44 31, 2, Brunel 1 44 94 3, Army 1 49 34 **Match result:** 1, Brunel 141pts 2, Birmingham 119, 3, Loughborough 116 4, Army 74, 5, Royal Air Force 42, 6, Royal Navy 23.

DORTMUND: Indoor meeting: Winners: Men: 60m: D Ezinwa (Nigeria) 6 52sec **800m:** J Botha (SA) 1min 46 33sec **60m hurdles:** C Jackson (GB) 7 45 **Pole vault:** M Stolle (Ger) 5 86m **Women: 60m:** M Ottey (Jam) 7 06 **400m:** G Breuer (Ger) 51 06 **800m:** L Formanova (Cz) 2:00 08 **5,000m:** G Szabo (Rom) 14 47 36 (world indoor world) **60m hurdles:** G Alozie (Nigeria) 7 85

LOS ANGELES INDOOR INVITATIONAL MEETING Winners (United States unless stated): **Men: 50m:** M Greene 5.56sec (equals world indoor record) **500 yards:** D Adkins 56.75 **800m:** J Strutzel 1min 49 37sec **Mile:** B Lagat (Ken) 4.01 03 **50m hurdles:** F Toran 6 43 **Women: 50m:** I Miller 6 15 **800m:** R Jacobs 2 07 60 **Mile:** J Stamps 4 2.95 **50m hurdles:** M Morrison 6.81

Cross country

BIRMINGHAM: Women's Inter-league match: Seniors (6.5km): 1, J Groves (Midland) 23min 56sec, 2, S Green (Midland) 24:28, 3, E Cochrane (Scottish) 24.37, 4, C Greasley (Northern) 24 40; 5, A Higgins (Scottish) 24.50, 6, K Wood (North) 24:52 **Teams:** 1, Midland League 72pts 2, Scottish League 80 **Juniors** (5km): 1, S Owen (Midland) 20.02, 2, K Bailey (Midland) 20 16 3, C Fagan (Scottish) 20.21 **Teams:** 1, Midland League 58 2, Northern League 64 3, Scottish League 100 4, Gwent 172. **Under-15** (3.25km): 1, J Nugent (Southern) 12 10 2, L Kronskey (Southern) 12 13, 3, F Fullerton (Southern) 12 17 **Teams:** 1, Southern League 28, 2, Northern League 101 3, Scottish League 110 4, Midland League 137; 5, Gwent League 183 **Under-13** (2.38km): 1, L Jepson (Midland) 12 18 2, F Wootton (Southern) 12:23 3, S Lamont (Scottish) 12 45 **Teams:** 1, Scottish League 59, 2, Midland League 99, 3, Northern League 106, 4, Gwent League 116

PERRY PARK: Birmingham League: First division (6 miles). 1, M O'Dowd (Loughborough) 30min 5sec, 2, C Warren (Birchfield) 30 11, 3, M Vaux-Harvey (Stourport) 30 17, 4, R Taylor (Coventry Godiva) 30:27, 5, S Wilkinson (Stourport) 30:34, 6, I Grime (Loughborough) 30 43 **Teams:** 1, Tipton 116pts; 2, Birchfield 135, 3, Telford 158, 4, Coventry Godiva 169, 5, Loughborough 176, 6, Stourport 191. **Final standings:** 1, Tipton 343, 2, Birchfield 604, 3, Coventry Godiva 624; 4, Loughborough 697, 5 City of Stoke 1,187; 6, Solihull and Small Heath 1,210 (Birmingham Rowheath and Leamington relegated to second division)

RUISLIP WOODS: North of the Thames championships: Men (11km): 1, S Kenney (London Irish) 38min, 2, S Murray (London Irish) 38 26, 3, N Mitchell (North London) 38 27, 4, I Johnston (Puma TVH) 39 07, 5, J Dixon (London Irish) 40 01 6, H Webb (Muswell Hill Runners) 40 01 **Teams:** 1, London Irish 73pts, 2, North London 140; 3, Hillingdon 164

FORRES: Scottish North District League: Senior men (9km). 1, S Pride (Keith) 32min 5sec, 2, R Arbuckle (Keith) 32 44, 3, A Reid (Peterhead) 33.27; 4, F Barton (Keith) 33.28 5, M Flynn (Moray Road Runners) 34 09, 6, B Law (Keith) 34 20 **Teams:** 1, Keith 390pts, 2, Moray Road Runners 360; 3 Forres 321, **Women** (4km) 1, A Campbell (Inverness) 18 04, 2, A Ross (Nairn) 18 25; 3, A McLean (Inverness) 18 38 **Teams:** 1, Inverness 293, Moray Road runners 287 3, Nairn 284

WEST WICKHAM: South of the Thames Centenary championships (7 miles), 1, C Knight (GEC Avionics) 34min 42sec, 2, W Oxborough (Thames Hare and Hounds) 35:11; 3, T Dover (Herne Hill) 35 18; 4, N Hilout (Belgrave) 35.41, 5, R Adams (City of Portsmouth) 35 51, 6, A Kennis (Thames Hare and Hounds) 35:55 **Teams:** 1, Belgrave 95pts 2, Blackheath 103; 3, City of Portsmouth 120, 4, Herne Hill 132, 5, Thames Hare and Hounds 204, 6, Bohs Racers 299 **Coleman Cup** (12-a-side): 1, Belgrave 443, 2, Herne Hill 645; 3, South London Harriers 1,042

HALTON: Sir Sefton Brancker Trophy (5.5 miles): 1, N Francis (Civil Service) 28min 5sec 2, S Snow (Civil Service) 28:20, 3, R Hollingsworth (Civil Service) 29 00, 4, I Coupland (Civil Service) 29:1?, 5, M Townend (Middlesex) 29 15 6, P Harer (Middlesex) 29 17 **Teams:** 1, Civil Service 41.5pts, 2, Middlesex 28, 3, Royal Air Force 16 **Veterans:** 1, C Finnell (Middlesex) 30 43; 2, S Owen (Civil Service) 30:49, 3, S Hartley (Middlesex) 31:12 **Teams:** 1, Middlesex 9; 2, Civil Service 122; 3, Royal Air Force 12.

Road running

TOKYO MARATHON: 1, G Thys (SA) 2hr 8min 33sec, 2, H Miki (Japan) 2:08 05, 3, K Shimizu (Japan) 2:09.00, 4, L Dos Santos (Br) 2 11 3?, 5, W Okulani (Japan) 2:11 50?, 6, K Yokoyama (Japan) 2:11 57

RACING: TRAINER SETS SIGHTS ON NATIONAL AFTER TOTE GOLD TROPHY SUCCESS

Egerton plotting another coup

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

DESPITE nursing a well-earned hangover after celebrating his fourth Saturday televised race winner in as many weeks, Charlie Egerton was yesterday plotting the most audacious coup of the season from his 25-horse yard in the heart of Berkshire.

The victory of Decoupage in the Tote Gold Trophy, which followed the recent successes of Teaatral at Sandown and Kempton and Dangerus Precedent at Doncaster, means the Chaddleworth trainer now boasts a strike-rate of 31 per cent this season — just behind that of Venetia Williams.

The Cheltenham Festival beckons and all three will be fancied runners in their respective races, but it is to Aintree that "Edgy" is looking with a horse whose two latest runs have ended, somewhat unceremoniously, out in the country where he was pulled up.

"I have got River Lossie, owned by Chris Brasher, entered for the Martell Grand National and I would not mind winning that," he said, thereby qualifying himself for the understatement of the year. "Basically, he has got a lot of quality, but it is his brain that is the problem. He would jump round there like a bunny rabbit.

"He was only beaten half a length by Large Action in his bumper and he has always been a talented horse but can be a bit wayward. He trotted up on his first two starts this year, then lost the plot.

"I am planning a rather eccentric training campaign for him in the run-up to the National. He will go hunting, show jumping and I may even run him in a timber race at Barbury Castle, just to surprise him. He has got the talent to run very well at Aintree."

With the bookmakers offering odds of 50-1 and longer against the enigmatic chaser, at present 7lb out of the handicap, obliging, there are worse bets around — especially given Egerton's hot streak of form.

Last year, his small string was hit badly by the virus and yet he still ended the campaign with a 33 per cent strike-rate. This season, the horses are healthy and he is maintaining his impressive winner-runner ratio. "Last year, everybody said I had a bad season but I don't think I did much wrong. I just managed the horses according to what was going on at the time. With the virus, I think I managed them pretty well."

Decoupage is a quality performer on good ground and could be named the winner at Newbury at least two flights from home. Jimmy McCarthy, a late replacement for Norman Williamson, who woke up on Saturday morning with a painful neck, came to the last flight with the proverbial double handful and made no mistake as he enjoyed the biggest pay-day of his career.

Decoupage earned a 33-1 quote for the Smurfit Champion Hurdle after his three-length victory over City Hall (25-1 for the Bonusprint Stayers'), but Egerton favours the Vincent O'Brien County Hurdle, followed by a crack at the Scottish Champion Hurdle, which he won two years ago with Shadow Leader.

A disappointing seasonal reappearance by Ask Tom in the Mitsubishi Shogun Game Spirit Chase, won by Celibate, underlined the paucity of top two-mile chasers this season.


Decoupage storms clear for a three-length victory in the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury on Saturday

NATIONAL HUNT LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	110	63	64	2	-67.36
Mrs M Reveley	72	59	49	2	-1.42
P Hobbs	64	57	35	3	+21.32
P Nicholls	63	55	20	9	-29.40

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	113	66	48	0	-82.09
R Johnson	89	90	90	1	-89.20
R Dunwoody	79	48	39	16	-24.83
M A Fitzgerald	78	45	54	5	+4.68

HEREFORD

THUNDERER
2.00 Rajati
2.30 Clod Hopper
3.00 Dublin River
3.30 Cool Spot
4.00 Wilmott's Fancy
4.30 Southern Flight
5.00 Two To Tango

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.00 WILMOTT'S FANCY.
Carl Evans: 4.30 Southern Flight.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 EWYAS HAROLD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,556: 2m 1f) (16 runners)

[illegible]

2.30 WORMELOW NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,534: 2m 3f) (16 runners)

[illegible]

3.00 ARROW MAIDEN CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,304: 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)

309 00F0 DANKATE 67 (M James) J Bradley 5-11-4 ... T J Murphy —
310 2/PPF- DERRING RULER 364 (Martin Wagham) Mrs P Ford 9-11-4 ... O McPhail (5) —
311 0/0-00 DANCING IN RIO 45 (Mrs T Walshe) T P Walshe 7-11-1 ... J Magee —
312 436002 ZURYAF 18 (B) (Stanton Seven) Mrs C Hicks 4-11-1 ... M Keighley (7) 78
313 SPACE MOUSE (K Ford) Mrs P Ford 8-10-13 ... Mr M Frith (7) —
314 R56324 GOLDENACRES 123 (B Lewendon) M Muggeridge 4-10-11 ... D Creech (7) 56
315 P MYSTERY MAN 58 (P Bradley) P Bradley 4-10-7 ... Gary Lyons —
316 040 SARATOGA SAGA 116F (H Manners) H Manners 4-10-5 ... N Newman (7) —

BETTING: 2-1 Happy Minstral, 9-4 Dublin River, 5-2 Zuryaf, 7-1 Goldenacres, 12-1 Dancing in Rio, 20-1 others.

1998: LITTLE SERENA 8-10-13 D J Burchell (10-1) J Hankman 15 ran

FORM FOCUS Dublin River 3l 2nd of 9 to Oversman in selling hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good): previously 5½l 3rd of 11 to Tremendisto in selling hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good to soft). Happy Minstral 12l 3rd of 7 to Advance East in selling hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft). Zuryaf 10l 2nd of 7 to Fayez in 4yo novice claiming hurdle at Wincanton (2m, soft). Goldenacres 7l 4th of 12 to Highbury Legend in 3yo novice claim hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, firm).

DUBLIN RIVER ran well when visored for the first time latest and may now go one better

3.30 WILLIAM HILL CHASE [SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£7,328: 2m) (17 runners)

401 423131 ROVESTAR 11 (B,D,G,S) (G Burrell) C Popham 8-12-3 ... O McPhail (5) 101
402 35-023 NASHVILLE STAR 65 (V,D,F,G) (R Mathew) R Mathew 8-11-11 ... C Llewellyn 83
403 114206 SAGAMAN 46 (D,F,G,S) (M Doocey) R Dickin 13-11-9 ... L Wyer 108
404 -FP4P2 MANASIS 15 (G) (G Clarke) S Brookshaw 8-11-8 ... S Wynne 95
405 -P3312 FILS DE CRESSON 28 (BF,D,S) (J Adams) J Adam 9-11-8 ... B Powell 103
406 10-222 CONNAUGHT CRACKER 67 (F) (Mrs A Tincknell) P Nicholls 9-11-7 ... J Tizzard [illegible]
407 P/4211 HANG'EM OUT TO DRY 28 (D,G,S) (Mrs S Russell) E L James 8-11-6 ... G Bradley 103
408 022-40 PAPARAZZO 89 (D,G) (Mrs C Wilson) W Jenks 8-11-6 ... T Jenks 104
409 41-F12 COOL SPOT 38 (D,S) (D Howe) G Enright 11-11-2 ... R Thornton 111
410 444221 NORTHERN SADDLER 12 (D,F,G,S) (R Hodges) R Hodges 12-10-12 ... P Holley 103

[illegible]

4.00 HOECHST ROUSSEL PANACUR EBF MARES NH NOVICES HURDLE (£3,745: 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)

[illegible]

4.30 OSWALD & ROWLAND SYMONDS HUNTERS CHASE (£2,176: 3m 1f 110yd) (16 runners)

[illegible]

5.00 LEDBURY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,944: 2m 1f) (12 runners)

[illegible]

TWO TO TANGO showed enough on her reappearance to suggest she can play a leading role here

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Newbury

1.30 1, **Sail By The Stars** (4-1), 2, Zaggy Lane (7-2), 3, Call It A Day (9-1). Earthmover 11-4 fav. 7 ran. NR: Herhorse

2.00 1, **Celibate** (7-2), 2, Mulligan (7-2); 3, Nearly An Eye (11-2). Ask Tom 5-2 fav. 6 ran.

2.35 1, **Decoupage** (6-1); 2, City Hall (20-1), 3, Sadlers Realm (16-1), 4, Amlage (50-1). Tulchev 6-4 fav. 18 ran.

3.05 1, **Kadou Nonantais** (8-11 fav), 2, Flaxley Wood (4-1); 3, Act Of Faith (10-1). 6 ran.

3.35 1, **The Fly** (2-1 fav), 2, Dr Jazz (13-2); 3, Perfect Venue (9-4). 11 ran

4.05 1, **Flying Instructor** (7-4 jt-fav), 2, Wayward King (2-1); 3, Go Universal (25-1). Copper Boy 7-4 jt-fav. 4 ran. NR, With Impunity.

4.35 1, **Golden Alpha** (11-8 fav): 2, No Forecast (20-1); 3, Frenchman's Creek (16-1). 24 ran. NR: Go Man

Ayr

1.50 1, **Begorrat** (8-1), 2, Burundi (11-8 fav): 3, Sillymore (8-1). 10 ran. NR: Kobalt, San Francisco

2.20 1, **Course Doctor** (11-8 fav), 2, Legal Right (5-2), 3, Mr Frangipani (8-1). 13 ran

2.50 1, **Thanks Keith** (6-4 fav), 2, The Robe (5-2), 3, All Our Blessings (16-1). 4 ran

3.25 1, **Island Chief** (6-4 fav), 2, Committed Schedule (7-1), 3, Bright Destiny (5-1). 8 ran.

3.55 1, **Rocheburg** (5-1), 2, Who Dares Wins (2-1 fav): 3, Valigan (6-1). 18 ran

4.25 1, **Lagen Bridge** (11-2), 2, Jymjam Johnny (9-2), 3, Burnt Imp (10-1). Rachaels Owen 3-1 fav. 8 ran

4.55 1, **Exalted** (20-1), 2, Silver Howe (14-1), 3, Rallegio (14-1), 4, Latin Leader (7-1). Straffan Gold 5-2 fav. 16 ran

Catterick

1.45 1, **Radanpour** (12-1), 2, Be Brave (5-2 fav), 3, Oversman (9-2). 15 ran. NR: Mithraic

2.15 1, **Bamburgh Boy** (8-11 fav), 2, Fassan (8-1), 3, Joe Shaw (13-2). 8 ran.

2.45 1, **Donnegale** (5-1), 2, Aztec Flyer (6-1), 3, Teal Bay (15-2). Tikopia 7-2 fav. 12 ran.

3.20 1, **Galen** (5-2), 2, Mister Muddypaws (8-1), 3, The Snow Burn (11-4). Sharp Command 9-4 fav. 5 ran. NR: Crabapple Hill

3.50 1, **Marigliano** (4-1), 2, Classic Eagle (3-1 fav), 3, Eastern Project (11-2). 6 ran

4.20 1, **Trade Dispute** (2-1 fav), 2, Andy Burnett (9-4), 3, Greenmount Lad (12-1). 8 ran. NR: Secret Bay

4.50 1, **My Desperado** (5-2 fav), 2, Colmarann (16-1), 3, Goldengirlmichelle (40-1). 14 ran

Haydock Park

1.40 1, **Samakaan** (8-11 fav), 2, Lasatah (3-1), 3, Big Atoll (25-1). 10 ran

2.10 1, **Mr Busby** (6-1), 2, Black Bullet (8-1), 3, Ahrraydoubleyou (11-1). Finewood 6-4 fav. 7 ran

2.40 1, **Nocksky** (10-1), 2, Little Gunner (33-1), 3, Blueshaan (8-1). Dictum 7-4 fav. 9 ran.

3.15 1, **Charlie Foxtrot** (33-1), 2, Chicodan (9-1). Only two finished. Marlborough (fr) 4-7 fav. 5 ran.

3.45 1, **Step On Eyre** (6-4 fav), 2, Share Options (4-1). Only two finished. 5 ran

4.15 1, **Kings Measure** (11-4 fav), 2, The Butterwick Kid (3-1), 3, Explain This (3-1). 6 ran

4.45 1, **Varykinov** (12-1), 2, Tinotops (8-1), 3, Lest Option (11-4). Rough Quest 6-4 fav. 10 ran

Lingfield Park

1.25 1, **Alamein** (6-1), 2, Kings Harmony (16-1), 3, Scissor Ridge (12-1). Acid Test 7-2 fav. 15 ran

1.55 1, **Van Gurp** (11-4), 2, Seseedo (12-1), 3, Dark Menace (15-2). Harpoon Louie 11-8 fav. 10 ran.

2.30 1, **Joseph's Wine** (2-1 fav), 2, Castle Ashby Jack (16-1); 3, Mr Rough (7-1). 9 ran

3.05 1, **Erinvale** (11-8), 2, Melody Queen (5-4 fav), 3, Irish Cream (7-1). 4 ran

3.40 1, **Scraggys Dream** (evens fav), 2, Dauntod (4-1), 3, Miss Take (16-1). 6 ran

4.10 1, **Pipers Clan** (4-1); 2, College Blue (8-13 fav), 3, Sharp Hint (4-1). 6 ran.

4.40 1, **Shanghai Lil** (10-1); 2, Sleave Silk (6-4), 3, Isabella Gonzaga (11-8 fav). 5 ran.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MANASIS (3.30 Hereford)

Steve Brookshaw's runner looks well treated here judged on his second to the useful Moor Lane at Doncaster last time out.

Next best: Deep C Diva (3.50 Plumpton)

SPECIALISTS

HEREFORD: Trainers: N Henderson, 8 winners from 21 runners, 38.1%; Miss V Williams, 8 from 22, 36.4%; M Pipe, 32 from 94, 34.0%; N Chance, 3 from 10, 30.0%. **Jockeys:** A Maguire, 4 winners from 16 rides, 25.0%; C Llewellyn, 22 from 95, 23.2%; T J Murphy, 6 from 29, 20.7%; B Fenton, 8 from 43, 18.6%.

PLUMPTON: Trainers: M Pipe, 29 winners from 63 runners, 46.0%; J Neville, 11 from 26, 42.3%; N Henderson, 5 from 17, 29.4%; C Popham, 4 from 15, 26.7%. **Jockeys:** C Webb, 4 winners from 11 rides, 36.4%; A P McCoy, 37 from 106, 34.9%; G Tormey, 3 from 14, 21.4%; M A Fitzgerald, 13 from 67, 19.4%.

PLUMPTON

THUNDERER
1.50 Falcon Sale. 2.20 North Kilkenny. 2.50 Dark Kestrel. 3.20 Strong Tel. 3.50 DEEP C DIVA (nap). 4.20 Stalbridge Bill. 4.50 Glacial Missile.

Carl Evans: 4.20 Regal Pursuit.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.50 DYKE NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,320: 2m 1f) (7 runners)

1 2205 FALCON SALE 74 (B,S) M Pipe 11-12 ... A P McCoy 69
2 325 AYEM 20 C Weedon 11-4 ... Mr N Fenny (7) [illegible]
3 3 BALLA D'AIRE 14 S Johnson 11-4 ... D Gallagher 79
4 01 FAYEZ 18 (S) F McAuliffe 11-4 ... S Durack 74
5 332 BERMUDA TRIANGLE 69 M Haynes 10-9 ... M Connolly (7) 73
6 U6 FRECKLES 130 M Ryan 10-5 ... J Ryan 34
7 HAKERKOP 21F John Berry 10-1 ... V Smith —

11-4 Fayez, 3-1 Bermuda Triangle, 7-2 Falcon Sale, 5-1 Ayem, 8-1 others.

2.20 HASSOCKS NOVICES CHASE (£2,851: 2m 2f) (4)

[illegible]

2.50 TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,784: 2m 4f) (11)

[illegible]

3.20 PLUMPTON CHASE (£2,835: 3m 1f 110yd) (9)

[illegible]

3.50 DITCHLING HURDLE (£2,583: 2m 1f) (12)

[illegible]

4.20 FLYAWAY HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,173: 3m 1f 110yd) (9)

[illegible]

4.50 HBLB CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,425: 2m 4f) (7)

1 1P-5 MAJOR'S LAW 7F (C,D,G,S) R Simpson 10-11-10 ... B Dowe (7) —
2 1465 IT'S WALLACE 45 (B,CD,S) J C Poulton 6-11-2 ... M Batchelor [illegible]
3 4501 ADVANCE EAST 14 (G,S) C Popham 7-11-2 ... D O'Sullivan (5) 100
4 3332 GLACIAL MISSILE 12 P Bowen 6-11-2 ... S Durack 80
5 4042 FOUNTAIN BID 10 (G) R Dean 7-10-9 ... R Widger 99
6 -033 AUGUST TWELFTH 17 (CD,S) D O'Brien 11-10-7 ... L Aspell 72
7 5264 BOW BELLS 10 J Joseph 4-10-0 ... J Goldstein 67

3-1 Glacial Missile, 7-2 Major's Law, Advance East, 5-1 August Twelfth, 11-2 Fountain Bid, 8-1 It's Wallace, 20-1 Bow Bells.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Hereford: 2.00 Lord Of The Flies 3.30 River Leven 4.30 Highway Five Southwell: 2.40 Zahr 4.40 Gold Chance

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
2.10 River Captain. 2.40 Society King. 3.10 Dick Turpin. 3.40 Areish. 4.10 Rich Ballerina. 4.40 Stanley Wigfield.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.10 NEVADA STAKES (£2,019: 1m 4f) (6 runners)

1 4461 NINJA'S STAR 9 (CD,F) M Britain 6-9-4 ... G Baldwell 3
2 -103 POKER SCHOOL 7 (C,G) M R Bosley 5-9-2 ... W Hutchinson (7) 5
3 01-0 RIVER CAPTAIN 35 (CD) D Murray Smith 6-9-2 ... J P Spencer (3) 1
4 00-2 ROBELLITA 9 E Small 5-9-0 ... P Dobbs (7) 2
5 -004 JULIES JEWEL 21 (C,S) M Chapman 4-8-11 ... S Righton (7) 6
6 02-5 YES KEEMO SABEE 7 D Shaw 4-8-11 ... [illegible] 4

5-2 River Captain, 3-1 Ninja's Star, 7-2 Poker School, 5-1 Robellita, 6-1 others.

2.40 SYRIAN DESERT STAKES (£2,146: 7f) (12)

[illegible]

3.10 KALAHARI HANDICAP (£3,719: 1m 3f) (12)

[illegible]

3.40 DEATH VALLEY HANDICAP (£2,801: 1m) (15)

[illegible]

4.10 NUBIAN SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £1,830: 1m) (8)

[illegible]

4.40 SAHARA HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,295: 6f) (14)

6 0063 DOLLY DAY DREAM 5 (V,D,F) K Ivory 9-2 ... Martin Dwyer 9
7 -240 OH I SAY 20 (F,S) Miss G Kelleway 9-0 ... J Quinn 7
8 000- THREE LEADERS 135 D Nicholls 8-8 ... F Norton 1
9 00-5 STANLEY WIGFIELD 17 D Nicholls 8-8 ... A Nicholls (5) 6
10 4321 NICHOLAS MISTRESS 6 (D) P Evans 8-8 (6ex) ... J P Spencer (3) 10
11 0-06 SOUNDS LUCKY 26 N Littmoden 8-5 ... J Tate 3
12 4-05 CREDENZA 6 R Spicer 8-4 ... P Fitzsimons (7) 12
13 05-0 DOVEDON TIMES 40 H Akbary 8-2 ... N Day 11
14 000- WOODCUT 154 P Felgate 7-13 ... S Righton (7) 2

7-2 Nicholas Mistress, 9-2 Nero Tirol, 5-1 Tina's Pet, 7-1 Keen Hands, 10-1 Dolly Day Dream, Oh I Say, 12-1 Credenza, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

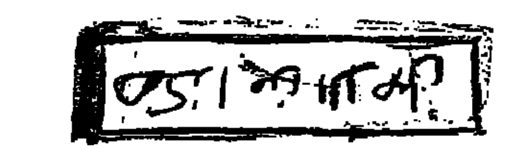
TRAINERS: A Kelleway, 5 winners from 9 runners, 55.6%; K Bell, 3 from 9, 33.3%; D Carroll, 4 from 18, 22.2%; J Eustace, 4 from 19, 21.1%; J Banks, 7 from 35, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: R FitzPatrick, 8 winners from 23 rides, 34.8%; N Day, 8 from 34, 23.5%; J Weaver, 37 from 217, 17.1%; P Fredericks, 4 from 24, 16.7%; M Tebbutt, 12 from 75, 16.0%.

Castle Mane denied Festival chance

CASTLE MANE, trained by Caroline Bailey, was denied the chance to qualify for Cheltenham's Foxhunter Chase when yesterday's Tweseldown meeting was frozen off (Carl Evans writes).

An abandonment of a different kind occurred 24 hours earlier at Higham in Suffolk, where "contaminated ground" forced the stewards to halt proceedings 35 minutes before the first race. Top soil, bought from a regular supplier and spread around the jumps after a recent meeting, was found to contain broken glass, china and wire. Claims for compensation are being discussed.



AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

Fitness Week

Fantastic health offers worth £80



FREE DAY AT A GYM



Pamper yourself: do aerobics, a workout, have a sauna, swim, steam bath. Enjoy.

FREE SWIMMING FOR TWO

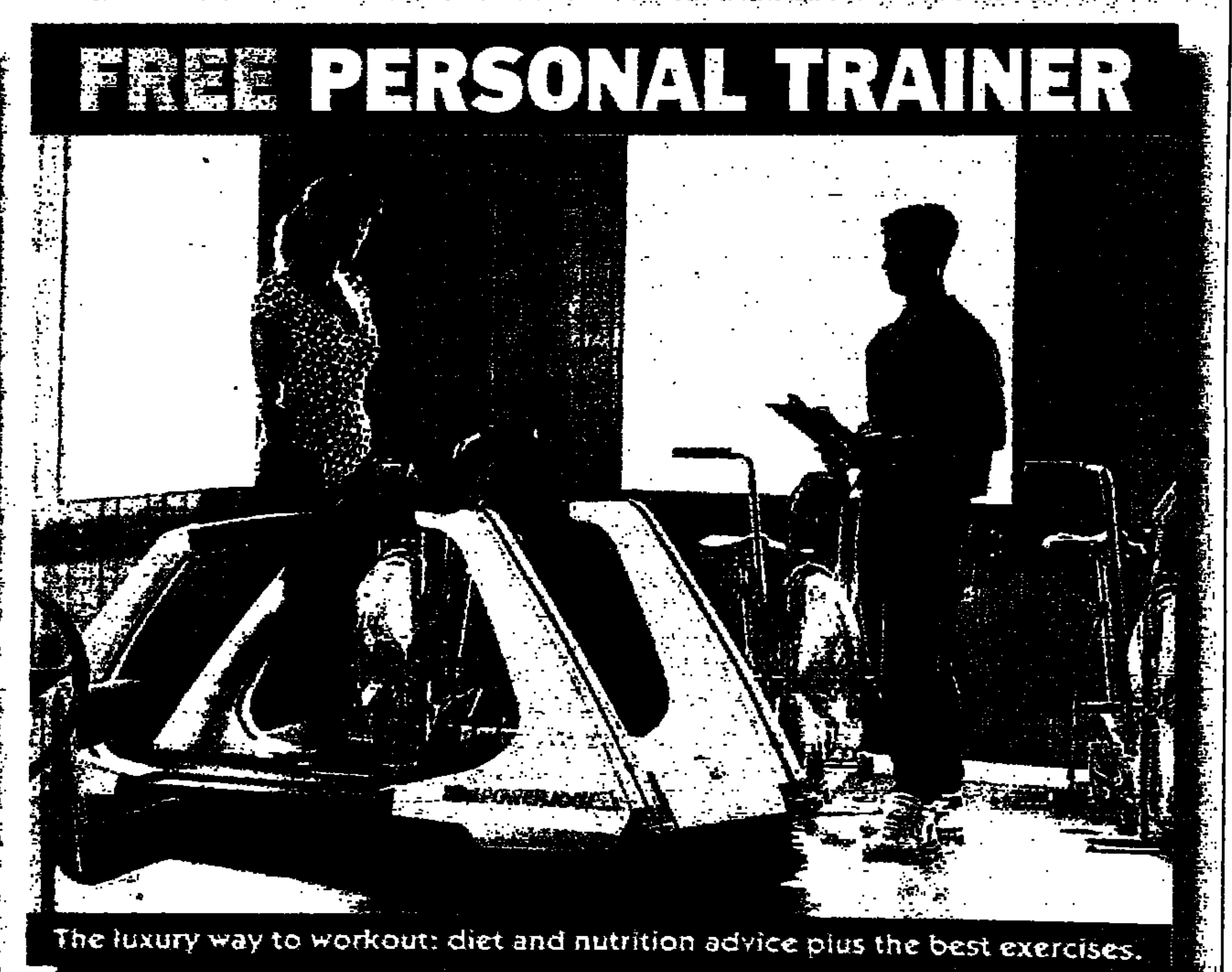
Swimming is one of the easiest exercises to do and one of the most relaxing.

2 FOR 1 BODY WRAP



You and a friend are guaranteed to loose six inches each overall

FREE PERSONAL TRAINER



The luxury way to workout: diet and nutrition advice plus the best exercises.

How are your New Year resolutions? Forgotten? With spring around the corner now is the time to revitalise your whole body

Make a new start to get into shape with these four fantastic offers devised exclusively for *Times* readers. Enjoy the luxury of a personal trainer in the privacy of your own home, absolutely FREE. Take a friend to one of the participating salons to try the Universal Contour Body wrap and you only pay for one. (They guarantee you lose six inches or you get another wrap FREE.) Take a friend swimming and you can both splash out FREE. Spend a stress-busting day in a gym, completely FREE.

These four fabulous offers are worth more than £80. All you need is one token plus a voucher for each activity which must be presented on the day of your visit. Tokens will appear from tomorrow and the four vouchers will be published on Saturday. You can book your treatment or session in advance, which it is advisable as this offer is going to be incredibly popular. A list of swimming pools will appear on Wednesday, the Body Wrap salons on Thursday and the gyms on Friday.

See tomorrow's *Times* for the list of personal trainers

CHANGING TIMES

Barclays leads big week for banks

BARCLAYS BANK: Michael O'Neill, *the new chief executive* from America, has much to do to restore the fortunes of Barclays after a difficult few years during which it has slipped down the banking league table.

Full-year results, due out tomorrow, are unlikely to contain many surprises. The group announced in November that pretax profits for the year would be not less than £1.9 billion. That compares with £1.7 billion last time, with *earnings per share* up from 74p to 82p.

However, BT Alex Brown, the broker, says that the trend in underlying profits is much worse after adjusting for losses at BZW, *leasing writedowns, disposal* gains and life provisions.

Pre-provision profits, excluding BZW, are forecast to fall 9 per cent to £2.4 billion with revenues flat against 1997 and costs up around 5.5 per cent.

Bad debt provisions are forecast to rise from £239 million to £506 million, reflecting difficult conditions in Russia and a lower level of releases and recoveries in the corporate business.

The dividend is expected to rise 15 per cent to 42.5p.

ABBEY NATIONAL: A useful increase in profits is forecast when final results are unveiled on Friday, despite dull conditions in the mortgage market during the first half, which saw the group lose market share.

Pre-tax profits should come in at £1.5 billion, against £1.27 billion last time. Earnings per share should grow from 65.2p to 70p. *The payout should rise by about* 16 per cent, from 30.5p to 35.5p.

HALIFAX: A better performance in the mortgage market in the second half should enable the bank group to achieve a modest increase in profits when results are published on Thursday. Pre-tax *profits are set to come in at* £1.66 billion, up from £1.63 billion the year before. Earnings per share should rise from 43.5p to 46.2p.

Halifax should follow the lead of other banks and raise the dividend 15 per cent to 20.3p.

WOOLWICH: At first glance, final results due on Wednesday, should make pleasant reading. Pre-tax profits are likely to grow from £401 million to £475 million, a rise of 19 per cent. However, last year's figure was struck after conversion-related costs of £53 million and disposal losses of £9 million.

The underlying picture is expected to show profits being squeezed by growing competitive pressure.

Like other mortgage lenders, Woolwich will have struggled in the first half, although conditions improved in the second half.



Michael O'Neill has a big task as the new head of Barclays after its fall down the banking league

GLAXO WELLCOME: Full-year results due on Thursday should mark a turning point in the fortunes of Britain's biggest drug company. Analysts forecast pre-tax profits of £2.47 billion to £2.59 billion, down from £2.68 billion last time. Brokers are confident that this will be the last flat performance by the group before earnings growth takes off again.

Sir Richard Sykes, chairman, forecast at the end of 1996 that, after two years of flat earnings growth, Glaxo's performance should pick up in the current year, with double-digit underlying earnings growth. The hiatus in growth for the past two years stems from the 1997 expiry of US patents on two of Glaxo's bestselling drugs, Zantac, the ulcer treatment, and Zovirax, the antiviral agent.

Glaxo is also expected to announce a full-year dividend of 35p to 36p (35p).

ZENECA: The focus of attention will be the group's proposed merger with Astra. Zeneca will publish final results on Wednesday, and on Thursday shareholders will vote on whether to sanction the deal. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at between £1.02 billion and £1.06 billion, down from £1.08 billion in 1997. Zeneca says that if the merger is approved it plans to pay a balancing second interim dividend for 1998 of 28p, in addition to the 14p paid in the first half.

Zeneca's merger with Astra has been at least partly driven by concern over future patent expiries. *Brokers have criticised* Zeneca's new product pipeline for being too weak to make up for the expiries. However, Astra faces similar problems, and analysts have said that the timing of their combined patent expiries and product launches exacerbates the problem rather than solving it.

BP AMOCO: The newly merged oil group is expected on Wednesday to report fourth-quarter replacement cost net income before exceptionals of between $798 million and $830 million, down from $1.50 billion, reflecting dilution of BP's performance by inclusion of Amoco's assets for the first time.

Some uncertainty surrounds forecasts for the new group as a result of limited disclosure because of the merger process. The fourth-quarter dividend will be the first reported in dollars, but a sterling equivalent will be declared simultaneously. The pay*out is expected to be 6.25p to 6.5p,* against 6p in the third quarter and 5.75p the previous year.

Some analysts expect the group to accelerate its restructuring programme to bring as much as possible of the initial upside into the 1999 results. This could mean that job losses may exceed the 6,000 forecast at the time of the merger with Amoco last August.

RANK GROUP: Hapless investors reeling from a disastrous year, culminating in Andrew Teare's ousting as chief executive, face further bad news as they await the arrival of Ladbroke's Mike Smith to replace him. Sir Denys Rank's chairman, is expected on Thursday to unveil pretax profits down from £303 million to about £255 million. However the payout is expected to be maintained at 18p with, at best, a tiny increase.

Worst hit will be the holidays and leisure divisions, both of which are expected to be carefully scrutinised after Mr Smith's arrival. Analysts are forecasting an asset writedown, although some estimate the group's break-up value at 300p, about 100p higher than its current share price.



TODAY

Interims: Dicom, Workspace Group (q3). **Finals:** Mersey Docks & Harbour, Norsk Hydro, RoyalBlue Group. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.

TOMORROW

Interims: Peter Black Holdings, Compel Group, Gearhouse Group, Macro 4, Paterson Zochonis. **Finals:** Anglo & Overseas, Barclays, Low & Bonar, Morgan Sindall, Quarto Group, Sema Group, St Modwen Properties. **Economic statistics:** January retail price index, January public sector finances.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Allied Carpets Group. **Finals:** Allied Irish Banks, BP Amoco, Dobbies Garden Centres, Woolwich, WPP, Zeneca. Economic statistics: January labour market report, Bank of England MPC minutes of February meeting.

THURSDAY

Interims: Freeport Leisure, TOR Investment Holdings. **Finals:** Glaxo Wellcome, *Halifax, Rank Group.* **Economic statistics:** January retail sales, January car output, British Bankers' Association January bank lending data, Building Societies Association January lending data, January provisional m4, m4 lending, January final m0.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled. **Finals:** Abbey National, Beta Global Emerging. **Economic statistics:** February consumer confidence survey.

Pointers on interest rates

After the devastating manufacturing figures last week and the Bank of England's downbeat *Inflation Report*, the minutes of the last meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee, out on Wednesday, *should provide further evi*dence on the future direction of interest rates. Most City economists expect at least a further 0.5 per cent to be shaved off the its lending rate before the end of the year.

There are not likely to be any nasty surprises to worry the Bank from this weeks's prices and unemployment data. January's retail price index, due tomorrow, is expected to come in on the Government's inflation target of 2.5 per cent, having risen slightly to 2.6 per cent the previous month.

January retail sales figures are expected to show a rise of 0.4 per cent on December but unchanged from last year, while Wednesday's unemployment figures are expected to show 10,000 more claimants.

The US is likely to be subdued as the *markets await a key speech from Alan* Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, who will make his twice-yearly statement on monetary policy on February 23. The US consumer prices figure, due on Friday, is expected to be comfortable. Wednesday's US industrial production figure for January will decline — around 0.5 per cent down from December *is forecast — but Americans are saved by* continued strength in consumer spending.

Thursday sees the fortnightly meeting of the European Central Bank's governing council. An interest rate cut is unlikely, given President Wim Duisenberg's view that there are no signs of a sharp slowdown in euroland. More interesting should be the monthly bulletin from the ECB out tomorrow, which will provide insights on its views on longer-term growth and interest rates.

Saturday's G7 meeting in Bonn is expected to see Germany again pushing the idea of target zones for exchange rates.

SAEED SHAH

The Sunday Times: Buy Moorfields Estates, Ultra Electronics, Synter, First Choice, Westminster Health Care: Sell Dixons Motors. *The Sunday Telegraph*: Buy Laura Ashley, Hill & Smith, Telspec, Atlantic Telecom, Groupe Chez Gerard, Luminar; Hold WPP; Sell Pearson. *The Mail on Sunday*: Sell SmithKline Beecham, Psion. *The Sunday Express*: Buy AMEC, Comino, Gowrings; Hold Christian Salvesen, Eidos, Scottish and Southern Energy.

Court of Appeal — **Law Report February 15 1999** — Court of Appeal

Protecting position until appeal

***Sithole and Others v Thor* Chemicals Holdings Ltd and Another**

Before Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Tuckey

[Judgment February 3]

A defendant who was appealing against refusal of his application to stay proceedings on the ground of forum non conveniens and who wished to protect himself against judgment being entered in default of a notice of intention to defend those proceedings had to apply either for a stay of proceedings pending the appeal or make an application to extend time for acknowledgement of service of the writ and by so doing could not be said to be submitting to the jurisdiction.

The Court of Appeal so stated when:

(i) allowing an appeal by the defendants, Thor Chemicals Holdings Ltd and Desmond John Cowley, against the dismissal by Mr Justice Gray on November 5, 1998 of their appeal from the dismissal by Master Hodgson on October 7, 1998 of their application under Order 12, *rule 8 of the Rules of the Supreme* Court to set aside judgment in default on October 24, 1998; and

(ii) dismissing an application by the defendants for leave to appeal against the dismissal by Mr Justice Garland on July 31, 1998 of their application for a stay on proceedings brought by the plaintiffs, Mr Moses Sithole and twenty others, on the ground of forum non conveniens.

The plaintiffs were employed by a South African subsidiary company *of the English company* Thor Chemicals in factories in Natal manufacturing mercury compounds. Mr Cowley was the chairman and controlling shareholder of Thor and took an active part in the activities of the subsidiary companies in the group.

The plaintiffs brought proceedings in the UK in January 1998 claiming damages for personal injuries because of their exposure to mercury. The proceedings were served on Thor at its registered offices in England and on Mr Cowley when resident in Spain.

The defendants sought a stay of proceedings on the ground that South Africa was a more appropriate forum. Mr Justice Garland dismissed that application and refused leave to appeal. The defendants informed the plaintiffs of their intention to seek leave from the Court of Appeal.

The plaintiffs subsequently entered judgment in default as there had been no defence served nor notice of intention to defend. The defendants issued a summons to set aside the default judgment.

They then issued an application to leave to appeal the decision of Mr Justice Garland. The defendants were unsuccessful in their application to set aside default judg*ment both before the master and* before Mr Justice Gray.

Mr Roger Ter Haar, QC and Miss Anna Guggenheim for the defendants; Mr Daniel Brennan, QC *and Mr Graham Read for the* plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE TUCKEY said *that on the appeal against the decision* of Mr Justice Gray, the defendants had submitted that it was or should be the practice of the court that no default judgment would be entered while an appeal against an application to stay proceedings was pending.

The defendants relied especially on the fourth note in *The Supreme Court Practice 1999* to Order 12, rule 8 [Note 12/8/3, page 133].

The defendants submitted that there was no difference in principle between the practice of not entering a default judgment while the application at first instance was pending and not entering a default judgment when the plaintiff knew that an application for leave to appeal was to be made and when time for such an application had not begun to run.

The rationale in both cases was that serving a defence might be a waste of costs and/or that serving a defence or *applying for an* extension of time for service of a defence might constitute submission to the jurisdiction.

His Lordship did not accept *those submissions. The note in The Supreme Court Practice* related only to the time before the summons under Order 12, rule 8 had been decided by the judge at first instance.

It was clear from Order 12, rule 8(6) that once a summons was dismissed, a different regime came into being. A defendant's original notice of intention to defend ceased to be effective.

If a defendant then did nothing he was at risk of a default judg*ment being entered against him.* He could lodge another notice of intention to defend or a fresh acknowledgment of service. But in neither case was he protected if he *appealed against refusal of an* application to stay proceedings.

A defendant could protect himself in that situation by applying for a stay or by an application to ex*tend time for acknowledgement of* service and by so doing could not be submitting to the jurisdiction.

His Lordship rejected the further submission that if the defendants were not entitled to do nothing then the judge had not exercised his discretion correctly.

It was not the judge's task to see if there was a defence on the merits. *The judge had exercised discre*tion on the defendants' submission that they were entitled to do nothing. The matter could have ended there.

But his Lordship accepted the further affidavit evidence adduced with leave on the appeal that there was a serious defence on the merits. The appeal would, therefore, be allowed and the judgment set aside.

On the application for leave to appeal against Mr Justice Garland's judgment, his Lordship found that the defendants could not show that South Africa was a more appropriate forum than the UK for trial. The appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Judge agreed.

Solicitors: Leigh Day & Co; Beachcroft Stanleys.

Pre-trial action makes conviction unsafe

Regina v Mullen (Nicholas *Robert Neil*)

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Colman and Mr Justice Maurice Kay

[Judgment February 4]

The legal meaning of "unsafe" in section 2 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1995 was broad enough to include abuse of process.

Where no complaint had been made about the conduct of a criminal trial and the appeal was brought purely on the ground that no trial should have taken place be*cause of the prosecution's abuse of* process prior to trial, it was appropriate to quash a conviction under section 2.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so *held in allowing the* appeal of Nicholas Robert Neil Mullen against conviction on June 8, 1990 at the Central Criminal Court (Mr Justice Hidden and a jury) *of conspiracy to cause explo*sions likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property, for which he was sentenced to thirty years.

Seven years after trial, the court granted Mr Mullen's application for leave for an extension of time and leave to appeal against conviction on grounds relating solely to the circumstances of his deportation from Zimbabwe to England prior to his trial.

Mr Nigel Sweeney for the prosecution; Mr Colin Mackay, QC and Miss Compaspe Lloyd-Jacob for *Mr Mullen.*

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the British authorities had initiated and subsequently assisted in and procured the deportation of Mr Mullen by unlawful means when there were specific extradition facilities between this country and Zimbabwe. They were also acting in breach of public international law.

The events leading to the deportation, which had now been revealed in the summary for disclosure, had been concealed from Mr Mullen until last year.

The court recognised the immense degree of public revulsion *which had quite properly attached* to the activities of those who had assisted and furthered the violent operations of the IRA and other terrorist organisations.

In the exercise of discretion, great weight had to be attached to the nature of the offence involved.

Against that, however, the conduct of the security services and police in procuring the unlawful deportation of Mr Mullen represented, in the view of the court, a blatant and extremely serious failure to adhere to the rule of law with regard to the production of a defendant for prosecution in the English courts.

The need to discourage such conduct on the part of those responsible for criminal prosecutions was a matter of public policy, to which, as appeared from *R v Horseferry Road Magistrates Court, Ex parte Bennett* ([1994] 1 AC 42) and *R v Latif* ([1996] 1 WLR 104), considerable weight was to be attached.

In those circumstances, the discretion had to be exercised on the basis that, but for the unlawful manner of his deportation, he *would not have been in this coun*try to be prosecuted and there was a real prospect that he would never have been brought to this country at all.

*Additionally, the need to encour*age the voluntary disclosure before trial of material and information in the hands of the prosecution relevant to the defence was a matter of public policy to which it was also necessary to attach great weight.

Omission to make such disclosure was clearly a matter to be taken into account on the exercise of the court's discretion. Their Lordships had no doubt that the discretionary balance came down decisively against the prosecution. The trial was preceded by an abuse of process which, had it come to light at the time, as it would have done had the prosecution made proper voluntary disclosure, would properly have justified the proceedings then being stayed.

Their Lordships concluded that by reason of that abuse of process, the prosecution and therefore the conviction of Mr Mullen was unlawful.

In arriving at that conclusion, their Lordships strongly emphasised that nothing in the judgment should be take to suggest that there might not be cases, such as *Latif, in which the seriousness of the* crime was so great relative to the nature of the abuse of process that it would be a proper exercise of judicial discretion to permit a prose*cution to proceed or to allow* a conviction to stand.

In each case it was a matter of discretionary balance to be approached with particular regard to the particular conduct complained of and the particular offence charged.

Solicitors: CPS, Headquarters; Christian Fisher & Co.

No privilege for lawyer's log

***Regina v Manchester Crown* Court, Ex parte R (Legal professional privilege)**

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Brian Smedley

[Judgment February 2]

A record of a client's appointment in a solicitor's appointments diary, or of the time of his attendance in an attendance note or fee charging sheet did not attract the protection of legal professional privilege and might accordingly be the subject of an order for production by the solicitors under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, on an application for judicial review by an R, facing criminal charges, of the order of Judge Henshall, at Manchester Crown Court, made on the application of Greater Manchester Police under section 9 of and Schedule 1 to the 1984 Act, directing production by his solicitors of any record of the time of his attendance at their offices on December 22, 1997.

On that date a fatally injured man was found outside premises where the applicant lived. He was believed to have left the scene by taxi at the relevant time and a driver was traced who stated that he had taken a passenger at that time to specified solicitors' offices.

In a police interview the applicant declined to answer questions and on June 12, 1998 the police ap*plied for an order of production* by the solicitors of any record or log recording the time of the applicant's arrival at the solicitors' offices.

The judge, being satisfied that *the first set of access conditions un*der paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to the 1984 Act were fulfilled and that the material sought was not covered by legal professional privilege, made the order sought.

The solicitors confirmed that they had no such log and on July 20 the Crown sought clarification of the June order. The judge held *that its ambit included any record* of appointment, whether or not it disclosed the applicant's attendance, any attendance note to show whether or not he attended and *any record in the form of an ap*pointments diary showing the time he was to attend, if it was by prior appointment.

The applicant challenged the *July order on the grounds that (i)* it was different in kind from that originally granted so that the judge should not have made it without first satisfying himself that the first set of access conditions were fulfilled and (ii) it required production of material subject to legal professional privilege.

The Divisional Court rejected ground (ii) but quashed the order on ground (i).

Mr Timothy King, QC and Mr Ahmed Nadim for the applicant; Mr Clement Goldstone, QC and Mr Adrian Farrow for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that in Mr Goldstone's submission there were four possible *categories of document in issue:* the first was the sort of record, referred to in the June order, which had been shown not to exist here; but that in all probability there was a record of the applicant's attendance at the solicitors recording the approximate time of his attendance, and fee charging sheets which would show the time devoted to the applicant's business and when.

Mr King had submitted that apart from the first category, the others were protected from production by legal professional privilege and he had laid particular stress on the definition of items subject to such privilege in section 10 of the 1984 Act which covered communications between a professional legal adviser and his client made in connection with the giving of legal advice.

He had referred to authority in support of his argument that the expression was to be given a broad and generous meaning and that the court should not restrict the ambit of a privilege described as fundamental to the administration of justice.

In his Lordship's judgment it was important to remind oneself of the well established purpose of legal professional privilege: namely, *to enable a client to make full dis*closure to his legal adviser for the *purposes of seeking advice without* apprehension that anything said by him in seeking it or to him in giving it might thereafter be subject to disclosure against his will.

It was true that in Balabel v Air India ([1988] Ch 317) the court had discountenanced a narrow or nitpicking approach to documents and had ruled out an approach which took a record of a communication sentence by sentence, extending the cloak of privilege to one and withholding it from another.

But it was none the less true that legal professional privilege applied only to communications made for the purpose of seeking and receiving legal advice.

In the present case, the court had to consider the function and nature of the documents with which it was concerned. The record of time on an attendance note, on a time sheet or fee record was not in any sense a communication.

It recorded nothing which passed between the solicitor and the client and had nothing to do with obtaining legal advice. It was the same sort of record as might arise if a call were made on a dentist or a bank manager.

A record of an appointment did involve a communication between *the client and the solicitor's office* but was not, without more, to be re*garded as made in connection with* legal advice. So to hold would extend the scope of legal privilege far beyond its proper sphere.

The applicant had argued that *the doctrine was to be applied on* an all or nothing basis, that either the document was wholly entitled to such privilege or none of it was.

That was not so, and the proposi*tion was not made good by Great Atlantic Insurance Co v Home Insurance Co* ([1981] 1 WLR 529).

In the present case production was sought of nothing relating to le*gal advice or the subject matter of* legal advice. Any such reference in, for example, an attendance note could be covered up, blacked out or obliterated.

The Crown had made it clear from the outset that they had no wish to go behind the veil which protected the exchanges between the applicant and his professional adviser with regard to his personal affairs.

Therefore subject to any necessary obliteration there was nothing in the documents to which the Crown sought access to which legal professional privilege could apply.

Mr Justice Brian Smedley agreed.

Solicitors: Kristina Harrison, Salford: CPS, Manchester.

Council liable over bollard

Cassin v Bexley London Borough Council and Another

Before Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Peter Gibson

[Judgment February 8]

A local highway authority which had arranged with the police to remove objects on certain roads in advance of a march, to prevent their use as missiles, had responsibility for the safety of motorists on those roads so long as they were in use and had a duty not to remove those objects until it was safe to do so.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an appeal by the London Borough of Bexley against a decision of Judge Marr-Johnson in Clerkenwell County Court on March 30, 1998 in which he allowed a claim by Stephen Cassin for personal injuries sustained in a motor cycle accident on Upper Wickham Lane, Bexley.

In 1993 the council and the Metropolitan Police made an arrange*ment whereby* at a fixed time the council would remove certain objects along a route to be used for a march on the headquarters of the British National Party in Bexley to *ensure that they were not used as* missiles.

The "keep left" bollards on the pedestrian islands in the centre of the Wickham Lane were removed *in accordance with the arrange*ment.

Mr Cassin subsequently rode his motorcycle along the street before the march took place and struck the plinth where the bollards had been. The judge found both the council and the Metropolitan Police liable for the plaintiff's injuries and awarded £67,070 damages.

Mr Richard Methuen, QC and Mr Andrew Pickering for the council; Miss Leigh-Ann Mulcahy for the police; Mr James Laughland for Mr Cassin.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that the council submitted that it should have escaped liability altogether; that its duty was to take reasonable care and that doing what the police told it to do, namely re*moving the bollards, was a proper* discharge of that duty.

It was in the arrangement between the police and the council that the bollards were not to be re*moved until the road was closed to* traffic. The decision to remove and make request to remove the bollards was wholly that of the police who alone had power to close the road, the council said.

His Lordship did not accept those submissions. According to the arrangement, the council was responsible for removing the bol*lards*.

The council's officers turned a request from the police to remove the bollards into an instruction by telling their contractors to remove them. The council did not itself have power to close the road, but the council, as the highway authority, retained its duty to road users until the road was closed.

The council had a duty not to instruct its contractors to remove the bollards until it was safe to do so, either once the road was closed or after warnings had been posted that the bollards were being removed.

The council officers had not in fact known whether the road was closed nor sought to ask the police if the road was closed.

Consequently, by removing the bollards when traffic could still use the road and without warning, the council had been in breach of its duty to ensure the safety of road users.

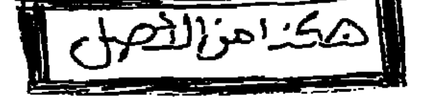
LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that the council as highway authority had responsibility for the highway so long as it was in use by motorists. The council also had *responsibility for removal of* the bollards at the correct time.

His Lordship did not accept that the police had power to order removal of the bollards. Rather the *council had to remove them at the* designated time.

It was plain that the council retained responsibility for the state of the highway so long as it was not closed *and it was* clear that the plinths constituted a hazard for motorists.

Therefore both council and police retained liability and owed a *duty of care.*

Solicitors: Barlow Lyde & Gilbert; Ponsford & Devenish Tivendale & Munday, Wimbledon; Russell Jones & Walker.



Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,759.30	Allied Domecq	456	-19	5.6	11.9
143.70	Bulmer (HP)	283½	-½	6.6	22.7
8.30	Burn Stewart	14			
21,235.80	Diageo	648½	-13	3.1	19.6
96.50	Glenmorangie A	710	+70	2.5	19.3
337.30	Highland Dist	252½	-1	4.6	11.5
7.02	Merrydown	39½	-1		
3,527.30	SA Breweries	987½	-50	3.7	14.9

BANKS

[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]

CORPORATE PROFILE: *Land Securities*

THE FACTS

Net asset value: £5.001 billion (at March 31 1998)
Net rental income: £414 million
Pre-tax profits: £266 million
Market capitalisation: £4.48 billion
Employees: 577
Business: The company sepcialises in the development and ownership on commercial, industrial and retail property

THE BOARD

Land Securities has a long-serving board and most executive directors have been with the company since the early 1970s. **Ian Henderson**, 54, chief executive, joined the company at the age of 26. He has been on the board since 1987 and became managing director in December 1997.

James Murray, 51, finance director, joined 18 years ago and was appointed to the board in 1990. He is a member of the technical committee of The Hundred Group.

Peter Birch, 60, became non-executive chairman in July last year, four months after standing down as chief executive of Abbey National. He is also chairman of Trinity International and a director of N M Rothschild.

Michael Griffiths, 53, was appointed to the board in 1990 and has been working for the company for 25 years. He is responsible for Central London as well as project management.

Keith Redshaw, 52, has been with the company for 29 years and on the board for nine. He is a past president of the British Council of Shopping Centres and is now responsible for the retail portfolio and for properties outside London.

John Hull, 72, a non-executive director, was made deputy chairman 22 years ago and was chairman for eight months until July last year. He was a director of Legal & General and Lucas until 1990 and is deputy chairman of the Takeover Panel.

Peter Hardy, 59, has been a non-executive for the past seven years. He is a director of Kingfisher, Howard de Walden Estates and Barnardos.

Conservative, worthy and dull — words people use to describe Land Securities and the choice of adjective depends on the affection in which Britain's largest quoted property company is held by the speaker.

Land Securities prides itself on its conservatism — it has had no disasters, no dividend cuts. Unlike scores of heavily indebted rivals, it rode through the property crash relatively unscathed, suffering only the hangover of buildings rented at peak rates in the late 1980s leading to a period of nil-growth. Conservatism saved Land Securities from the embarrassment of overdevelopment that plagued MEPC, not to mention the debt crises that brought down Rosehaugh and Stanhope. The virtue of the giant tortoise leaves it today with £6.5 billion in real estate and debts of just £1.5 billion.

But conservatism, as Disraeli observed, can be a barren thing and increasingly, people in the City are whispering that Land Securities has lost direction.

It is undergeared at a time when real estate is said to be due for a bond market-induced upward correction. Inflation, once the great rescuer of landed fortunes, is weak and likely to remain so. John Atkins at Commerzbank notes that Land Securities's rating has slipped markedly over the past three months, performing worse than the sector average. In essence, many investors are now plumping for the third epithet: Land Securities is dull.

It was not always so. The company's reluctance to make grand gestures is attributed to its founder, Harold Samuel (later Lord Samuel of Wych Cross) who paid £20,000 for *Land Securities Investment* Trust in 1944. It then owned a few houses in Kensington but by the end of 1969 it was already a behemoth of its day with profits of £4 million and a portfolio worth more than £500 million. A glance at the furious pace of activity in those early years suggests that Harry Samuel's conservatism is a myth. It is true that he was conservative about debt, borrowing long and at keen rates to fund his investments.

However, he was aggressive and built up his empire with takeovers, even enjoying a tilt at the Savoy Group. Land Securities built up a share stake in 1953, only to be thwarted when Savoy issued special shares with higher voting powers.

Samuel was forced to concede defeat but Land Securities made a £100,000 profit on its 37 per cent interest. The importance of Harry Samuel to Land Securities is his extraordinary legacy. A guided tour of postwar British urban architecture

BEN GURR





Ian Henderson, chief executive of Land Securities, in his office that overlooks the Strand in London. The company made its name in the postwar boom created by interventionist governments with bureaucracies that needed to be housed. It also worked with local authorities to rebuild bombed-out city centres

would be a depressing experience but you would see much of the work of Samuel and Land Securities. Samuel concluded that the postwar interventionist governments would create huge bureaucracies and he set about housing them.

An early creation was Ravenseft Properties, which worked in partnership with local authorities in the 1950s to rebuild bombed-out city centres, erecting shopping malls in Hull, Exeter, Plymouth, Bristol and Coventry. At the same time Samuel was snapping up sites in Central London, buying buildings in Berkeley Square, Petty France, Portman Square, Oxford Street and Victoria.

In 1968, Samuel did the biggest property deal of his day, buying City Centre Properties for £155 million. A year later he outbid MEPC, Trafalgar House and Oldham Estates to take control of City of London Real Property Company, bringing the grim 1960s government office complex of Stag Place in Westminster under his control. Today, the company is assiduously cultivating its extensive gardens, turning up its nose at the hurly-burly dealing world that swims at its feet.

The man who has inherited Samuel's chief executive mantle is Ian Henderson. He succeeded Sir Peter Hunt, Samuel's protege and successor, when Sir Peter died suddenly in December 1997.

Mr Henderson has an answer prepared for those who question what the rationale is for such a sprawling property colossus. "This is a mature industry. Our *raison d 'étre* will become urban regeneration. That is where we have particular expertise." By urban regeneration, he does not mean slum clearance and housing for the poor. Land Securities wants to build better shopping in decaying town centres. It is in line with government policy and all the initiatives aimed at cutting back on the queues of cars streaming into out-of-town malls. It is also a return to the past. He points out that Land Securities was built on sound finance backed with government lettings, urban regeneration and new towns.

Today, the company is rebuilding the decaying town-centre retail precincts of the 1950s and 1960s. Land Securities has a large development programme, part-financed by selective sales of overrented London office buildings. It is building the Coppergate Centre in York, another retail development in Exeter, and the second phase of a retail development in Sunderland.

Henderson is a scathing of the big out-of-town malls and plugs the variety on offer in city centres. Few would disagree but will cosier town centres make big bucks for Land Securities? One of its schemes in Birmingham, the one million sq ft Martineau Galleries development, is stalled pending resolution of a tussle with Hammerson, which coincidentally plans to redevelop the Bull Ring shopping centre. Two such schemes cannot go ahead at once, not least as they will both be courting the top retailers as tenants, the same old shop multipks that create such dull out-of-town malls.

There is also a touch of self-justification in Land Securities' affection for town centres. Sir Peter, Henderson's predecessor, had the foresight to invest heavily in retail parks, building up probably the largest portfolio in the UK, worth £800 million but he missed out on the malls. The company spurned an opportunity to take part in John Hall's Metro Centre in Gateshead and has not made its presence felt in bids for big centres.

The Land Securities top brass are well aware of the difficulties ahead. As Jim Murray, finance director, puts it: "If you are looking at 1-2 per cent inflation, you have got to get it right if you want earnings growth."

In Land Securities terms, the traditional response has been to avoid making wrong decisions rather than finding the big bold idea. Land Securities could raise £1 billion tomorrow to fund a big deal but on such a scale mistakes become noticeable and it is scarcely suprising if Mr Henderson and his colleagues prefer to hold on to the cash and redevelop Harry Samuel's well-chosen city centre plots. Unkind commentators suggest that Land Securities is becoming even more of a property civil service.

Land Securities has come to a crossroads, facing a market distrustful of property companies, yet demanding high returns while offering no inflationary palliative. It needs to define its role better but lacking big blots on its copybook, it fears change. As one analyst puts it: "It's like ICI or Sainsbury's, once things start to slip, it is terribly hard to turn round."

Intergrity Works, in giving an ethical expression rating of six, says that Land Securities has a business ethics policy and a supporting framework. However it may need to consider publicising its ethical expression more vigorously to meet present day calls for greater and greater transparency.

Crisp Consulting gives the company a fat cat rating of ten out of ten. It says that given his experience and the company's profile, Ian Henderson's pay of £343,000 is well below the £1 million plus found in comparable FTSE 100 companies. The non-executive directors are similarly underpaid.

CARL MORTISHED

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"There is a great danger that sentiment towards the company could go the way that sentiment turned against M&S. Land Securities has kept out of trouble in volatile markets but keeping out of trouble in normal markets does not get you any fans"
John Atkins, Commerzbank

"Who is the natural owner of property? The institutions have got the money but they don't want to own it directly. They would rather have it in securitised form, so Land Securities has a role. The question is whether it is the right structure?"
Alec Pelmore, Merrill Lynch

"It's very dull, it's very sober, it's undergeared and it lacks any original direction. Land Securities is powerfully placed but what is it going to do now?"
Alan Carter, Credit Suisse First Boston

THE VERDICT

Ethical expression¹	6/10
Fat-cat quotient²	10/10
Financial record	6/10
Share performance	5/10
Attitude to staff	8/10
Strength of brand	4/10
Innovation	3/10
Annual report	10/10
City star rating	3/10
Future prospects	5/10
Total	60/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by ¹Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by ²Crisp Consulting.

Shorewood reviews bid for Field

BY OUR CITY STAFF

INVESTORS in Field Group could learn today whether America's Shorewood will increase the value of its bid for the UK packaging company.

The Shorewood board is expected to meet today after Friday's increased £218 million takeover bid for Field by Chesapeake, a US rival.

Chesapeake's first bid for Field, recommended by the board of the UK company in January, was worth 320p a share. This was trumped by Shorewood, with an offer worth 350p. The latest offer from Chesapeake is worth 360p a share, a premium of 59 per cent to the Field share price before the bid battle began.

Frank Knight, chairman of Field, said the board was unanimous in recommending acceptance of Chesapeake's improved terms. However, it is possible that Shorewood may yet return with a counterbid this week.

Field, which specialises in printed folding cartons, saw its shares plunge late last year after a profit warning. In 1998 the shares traded as low as 145½p.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.6293 (–0.0091)
Euro
0.6924 (+0.0036)
Exchange index
100.2 (–0.5)
Bank of England oficial close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3629.3 (+28.3)
FTSE 100
5950.7 (+95.4)
New York Dow Jones
9274.89 (–29.35)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
13973.69 (+75.61)

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.61	2.44
Austria Sch	20.91	19.25
Belgium Fr	61.57	56.61
Canada $	2.546	2.358
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8829	0.8114
Denmark Kr	11.35	10.46
Egypt	5.74	5.13
Finland Mkk	9.15	8.40
France Fr	9.96	9.18
Germany Dm	2.993	2.751
Greece Dr	492	453
Hong Kong $	13.43	12.23
Iceland	127	107
Indonesia	17880	12680
Ireland Pt	1.1941	1.1051
Israel Shk	6.96	6.30
Italy Lira	2977	2740
Japan Yen	201.09	183.56
Malta	0.665	0.606
Netherlds Gld	3.380	3.085
New Zealand $	3.11	2.87
Norway Kr	13.02	12.08
Portugal Esc	302.67	280.64
S Africa Rd	10.52	9.56
Spain Pta	252.28	233.49
Sweden Kr	13.66	12.56
Switzerland Fr	2.465	2.247
Turkey Lira	571324	533350
USA $	1.733	1.590

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

ECB under pressure to cut euro rates

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

POLITICAL pressure is mounting for a cut in euro interest rates when the European Central Bank's governing council meets in Frankfurt this week.

France and Germany want the bank's refinancing rate to be cut from 3 per cent to 2.5 per cent at the council meeting on Thursday to stimulate flagging economic growth in euroland.

Both Japan and Sweden trimmed rates on Friday. Traders are betting, however, that Wim Duisenberg, the ECB's self-consciously independent president, will resist calls for a cut this time.

Demands for swift action have come primarily from Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's Finance Minister and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, his French equivalent.

They believe that this week is the first occasion on which there has been a chance of further movement. The ECB cut its rate from 3.5 to 3 per cent a few weeks before the introduction of the euro on January 1 but said it would maintain this rate for some time to allow the new currency an early period of stability.

Last week, Herr Lafontaine warned his fellow EU finance ministers that any delay in cutting interest rates would be dangerous because recession in Asia, Russia and Brazil was rapidly causing a "demand shock" in Europe. He hinted that if monetary policy did not cushion the fall in demand, public spending would have to be raised, regardless of Maastricht rules on budget deficits.

ECB sources have hinted in response, however, that political arm-twisting could delay a cut rather than hasten it. Mr Duisenberg has already said that pressure from Herr Lafontaine last autumn made the last decision to cut rates harder.

Some economists also argue that what France and Germany want is not necessarily right for euroland. Countries such as Italy, Spain and the Republic of Ireland are benefiting from much bigger interest rate cuts in the run-up to monetary union.

The weakness of the euro gives the ECB a further reason for inaction. The new currency has lost 4 per cent of its value against the dollar in six weeks and 2 per cent against sterling. This unexpected move helps euroland manufacturers.

A more likely spur to action may come next month, when the European Commission is due to update its 1999 economic forecasts. Projections of 2.5 to 2.6 per cent growth in the full EU area this year are certain to be revised down.

David Hale, chief economist of the Zurich Group, expects Europe to grow at no more than 1.8 per cent. John Shepperd, of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, sees only 1.7 per cent growth in euroland itself. Many economists agree that the ECB is most likely to cut its key interest rate by a quarter point only in either March or April.



All Saints have been unable to bring out any official merchandise because of the dispute with All Saints Clothing

All Saints Clothing sues pop group

By Fraser Nelson

ALL SAINTS, the all-girl pop group, have been served a High Court writ by All Saints Clothing & Design, a small London fashion house.

Stuart Trevor, who took out the trademark to All Saints in 1994, is seeking an injunction that would stop the pop group from producing any merchandising for their forthcoming UK tour.

He is suing each of the four girls personally along with De-Lux, a company that makes merchandise for pop groups and acts for All Saints. He said: "I know they are also interested in selling baggy trousers and fleeces — that's part of what we do. I believe they are in production now.

"If I don't do this now, I may as well cease trading today. We were well established in the clothing business before they came along."

Jeremy Joseph, managing director, of De-Lux said: "I really can't say anything about this. We've never been involved in a legal dispute before."

All Saints Clothing runs a boutique in the West End of London. Its clients include Robbie Williams, the singer who is engaged to Nicole Appleton from All Saints. Talks about a licensing deal broke down after the group's representatives described Mr Trevor's terms as "ludicrous".

The dispute has so far stopped the group from bringing out any official All Saints merchandise — depriving them of millions of pounds in extra revenue.

Management pay £85m for Safetynet

By Our City Staff

SAFETYNET, which provides disaster recovery services for bank dealing rooms, has been acquired by its management for £85 million.

A management team led by Paul Barry-Walsh, managing director, will own 55 per cent of the company. 3i, which led the transaction, will hold 20 per cent, while Reuters emerges with a 25 per cent interest. The deal is expected to be confirmed today.

Safetynet was one of the first companies to offer so-called financial business continuity services and is a leading provider of bank dealing room disaster recovery services. It has trebled its facilities in the past 18 months by opening two new recovery centres in Central London and new sites in Manchester and Frankfurt.

It has also acquired a 28,000 sq ft bank dealing recovery centre in London, formerly owned by MCI WorldCom. After a £10 million investment programme, Safetynet now has eight recovery centres in the UK, with additional sites in Tokyo, Frankfurt, Madrid and Paris, giving total capacity of more than 2,000 positions across 150,000 sq ft of premises and 200 front office positions.

Reuters took an initial stake in Safetynet in 1993.

Crest to cut cost for individuals

CRESTCO, the company that operates the recently launched Crest settlement system for the UK securities market is to halve the cost of membership for private investors (Caroline Merrell writes).

The charge will come down from £20 to £10 per year, effective from July 1. The cut in cost comes after fears that private investors were not using the service because it was too expensive.

Crest claims that the significant reduction in charges will make brokers more willing to offer Crest personal membership to their private clients.

Iberia climbs on board oneworld alliance

By Martin Barrow

IBERIA, Span's flagship airline, will today formally join the oneworld marketing alliance alongside British Airways as plans for its privatisation move up a gear.

Heads of the oneworld companies, which also include Qantas, Cathay Pacific, Canadian Airlines and Finnair, meet in Sydney today, when state-owned Iberia will be welcomed into the fold.

The alliance, launched last September, combines the airlines' timetables and frequent flyer programmes. It already covers 632 destinations in 138 countries, rivalling the Star alliance led by America's United Airlines and Lufthansa, Germany's flagship airline.

Iberia's inclusion follows last Friday's agreement with BA, giving the UK airline a 9 per cent stake in the Spanish carrier. American Airlines also took a 1 per cent stake.

The deal was valued at about £200 million but the final cost will be determined when the value of the Amadeus computer reservation system, in which Iberia has a 29.2 per cent interest, is established.

The Spanish Government expects the partial privatisation of Iberia to take place later this year, when the airline is likely to be valued at about £2.5 billion. The Government will sell an initial 30 per cent interest to institutional investors.

The Spanish airline is smaller than its new partners, with only about 200 aircraft and 95 routes. It transports 26.5 million passengers a year, as well as more than 200,000 tonnes of cargo. In 1996 it returned to profit after seven years of losses. Last year net profit doubled to more than 35 billion pesetas (£146 million).

1998 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3¼	0¾	2.40	10 Grp	1	...	...	...
191	74½	14.30	AFA Systems	113½	- 1½	...	...
133½	93½	12.30	AMCO Corp	95	...	9.2	7.1
157½	93½	6.14	ATA Group	94½	- 15½	2.6	7.4
271	175	37.00	Access Plus	220	...	2.9	18.4
67½	44½	5.94	AdVal Group	45	...	...	7.7
7¼	2	2.61	African Gold	2½	...	...	...
96½	36½	33.30	Albemarle & Bd	75	- 2	1.7	20.4
43½	24	8.88	Alizyme	25	- 2½	...	...
102½	42½	10.50	Ambient Media	44	- 1	...	...
325	88½	8.03	Ambishus Pub Co	127½	+ 2	...	16.5
108½	96½	35.00	Anglo Sibrn Oil	96½	...	...	...
119	72½	3.25	Anglo-Welsh	105	+ 1½	3.6	8.6
117½	58½	45.80	Antonov	59	- 1	...	...
110½	62½	15.50	Aortech	76½	+ 2½	...	...
100	80	4.42	Aram Resources	85	...	6.2	28.6
90	50	6.63	Arches Dedicated	65	...	...	...
5¾	3¾	3.12	Artisan (UK)	4½	+ ¼	...	...
485	236¾	97.00	Ask Central	427½	+ 7½	0.3	37.8
72½	54½	1.00	Athelney Trust	55½	...	2.5	47.4
24¾	4½	11.90	Atlantic Caspian	6¾	+ 1¼	...	...
68½	5½	4.56	Avalon Oil	6	...	...	...
202	124	62.70	BATM Adv Comms	201½	+ 1	1.5	...
238½	66½	11.90	BCO Technologies	66½	- 2	...	...
317½	135	21.40	BGR	137½	- 7½	2.6	15.6
3¼	1	0.92	Bakery Services	1¼		...	...
115½	44½	22.20	Barbican Health	115		...	...
2	1½	3.30	Beechcroft	1¾	...	3.6	10.5
3¼	1	5.81	Beaufort	3	...	2.8	59.6
44	26½	5.51	Bickerton	36	...	1.7	34.1
117½	50	0.82	Billam	51½	...	12.9	...
53½	26½	2.36	Bilston Bttrsea	26½	- 8½	3.5	...
1½	0¾	7.08	Birchin Intl	1¼	...	...	15.7
44½	30½	19.80	Birmingham City	39½	- ½	...	...
67½	5	0.60	Blakes Cloth	6	+ 1	20.8	11.2
156½	68	12.40	Bond Intl Soft	91	- 1½	...	22.1
325	235	2.21	Bowness Lea	315	...	3.0	13.5
37½	7½	2.45	Brancote Hldgs	12	- 1½	...	...
105	60	2.52	Br Bloodstock	60	- 2½	5.2	7.3
35½	9½	1.16	Buckland Invs	9½	...		...
12	6	0.05	Buckland Inv Wts	6		...	
252	106	18.40	CA Coutts Hldgs	155	+ 15	3.0	15.0
170	20	6.29	C & B Publishing	25	- 15		6.9
155½	111	1.50	CCI Hldgs	125		2.5	...
11½	8	13.20	CCM Distribution	8			13.8
79½	49½	3.19	CW Residential	72½		3.1	37.0
235	140	10.90	Cafe Inns	219	+ 15	1.9	16.5
50	40	5.54	Caledonian Tst	45			5.6
15	5½	1.66	Cambridge Min Res	5¾		...	
2½	2	3.00	Cambury Inv	2			31.9
1½	0¾	0.68	Cambury Inv Wts	0¾			
87	34	50.70	Card Clear	36	- 1½	0.9	15.9
54	35½	3.93	Carisbrooke Ship	38½		3.2	12.4
22	9¼	212.80	Carlisle	15¾	- ¼		49.4
12¼	4	4.59	Carlisle Wts	11½	- ½		
55	32	1.76	Cassidy Bros	32		11.1	
13	5	3.32	Celebrated Group	5¼	- ½	...	
126	71½	21.60	Ct Comms(TV)	98½		3.4	17.4
26	40	14.30	Charlton Abl	40	- 1		
14½	3¼	13.00	Charterhouse Cms	13	+ 1½	3.5	10.7
115	65½	113.70	Chelsea Village	74½	- ½		53.3
35	13¼	113.50	Chorion	22¾	+ 1¼	...	
122	95½	33.30	Citadel	100½		2.2	62.7
52	25½	5.54	City Gourmets	26½	- ½	...	
113	85	0.81	Clan Homes	90			
22½	8	12.40	Coffee Rep	13	- ½		
217½	137	29.40	Comino	227	+ 18½	2.1	15.6
365	142½	16.10	Computerland UK	175		1.4	21.3
19½	12½	10.03	Concurrent Tech	14¼		1.8	21.4
45	23	7.25	Conister Tst	32		7.8	8.2
149½	127½	14.50	Connaught	149½		4.3	11.9
3¾	1	2.73	Corporate Exec	1¾			
15½	1¼	0.36	Crest Intl	2¼			
153	113	5.73	Cresco Ind	115½			30.9
230	77½	1.60	Crown Eye	100	+ 22½	15.6	
42	19½	6.02	Dalkeith Ins	23	- 3	...	
287½	129½	8.24	Dawn Til Dusk	130	- 3½	4.0	9.8
430	170	15.10	Deep Sea Leisure	240			19.0

1998 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
6¾	2¾	7.39	Dentmaster	5	+ ½	2.9	12.2
495	16½	7.80	Desire Petroleum	16½	- ½	...	45.3
79½	52	7.86	Digital Animn	53½	+ 1	...	...
32½	17½	11.00	Dimension Res	17½	...	...	...
18½	3½		Dimension Wts	14	...	...	...
23½	16½	2.74	Dinkie Heel	18½	...	10.8	6.9
135½	79½	7.70	Delyn Group	88½	+ 3½	3.5	14.8
45	16½	5.45	Dicotek	29	...	...	...
406	195	17.20	Dobbies Garden	260	+ 15	2.2	15.8
30	19½	2.48	Downtex	20½	...	...	10.6
263½	145	23.00	Dragons Health	191½	+ 1	1.9	19.9
3¾	2	1.71	Drings of Bath	2	...	...	12.9
862½	217½	23.70	Durlacher	790	- 10	...	24.0
39½	34½	3.67	Eagle	37½	...	...	...
280	73½	48.40	Easynet	236	- 17	...	...
330	120	28.10	Elec Retail Sys	132½	- 5	...	...
103	70	19.70	Enterprises	72½	- 4	7.3	...
27½	11½	5.83	Epic Group	25	...	...	25.7
45	45	14.10	Epicure Nebuls	45	...	...	...
95	27½	2.25	Eurasia Mining	27½	...	...	...
3¾	2½	4.92	Fairplace Cons	3¼	...	4.2	8.4
390	200	10.10	Farlake	383	+ 4	1.3	...
82½	47½	12.40	Faynewood	59	- ½	2.6	10.3
103½	20½	4.33	Fieldens	86½	...	...	...
117½	57½	13.00	Firestone Dmds	57½	...	...	...
160	95	4.16	Flomerics	160	...	2.3	26.5
100	30½	1.04	Floral St	32½	...	...	...
102½	57½	8.90	Formscan	79½	- ½	4.7	8.8
188½	99½	12.10	Fountain Forestry†	127½	...	12.0	17.9
205½	158½	11.80	Furlong Homes	178½	+ 11	4.5	5.4
99½	24½	4.16	Future Intl Telep	37½	+ 12½	...	...
301½	133½	15.50	GB Railways	176½	+ 33	4.6	9.9
60	37½	6.60	GR Hldgs	50	...	2.5	14.3
12¾	4	15.70	GTL Res	9¾	- ½	...	
179½	85½	85.70	Garland W&B	98½	- 5	6.6	
26¾	12	31.30	Gold Mns Sard	23¼	- 1	...	...
70	15	8.31	Golf Club	17½	...	...	...
171½	111½	21.70	Gooch & Housego	129½	+ 12	1.7	17.9
23	9	2.86	Griffin Mining	13½	- 1	...	...
2¾	2	2.00	Grosmont Hldgs	2	...	...	13.9
1¼	0½	0.60	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	0½	...	...	...
15	7¾	1.93	Grosvenor Ltd	8			25.5
177½	160	46.90	Gutan	177½	+ 5	3.8	13.3
6¼	3	1.92	Hansom	5	- ½		24.2
255	142	25.80	Hardy Undwtg	153½	+ 1	5.3	6.5
2¼	0¾	13.80	Hartford	1¾	...	...	...
40	28	7.35	Hazas Group	29½		...	18.4
89½	44½	3.04	Hat Pin	67½		1.9	...
405	325	8.09	Heavitree	325	...	2.6	18.9
295	275	12.40	Heavitree A	275		3.4	14.4
105	55½	5.61	Helicon Pubg	35		...	
145	61½	11.80	Highams Sys	62½		2.0	10.5
135½	87½	7.70	Highland Timber	87½	...		
80½	56½	17.50	Honeycombe Leisure	77½	- 1	...	12.9
100	60	1.60	Hurlingham	100		1.2	
97½	58	3.89	Hydro-Dynamic	52		8.4	12.4
83½	19½	5.97	IES	25½	- 1		
330	145½	12.20	I S Solutions	255	+ 2½	1.0	29.3
737½	137½	180.70	Indpt Energy	632½	- 15		
86½	51½	9.40	Indpt Radio	57½		...	
332½	32	17.10	Infobank Intl	58½		...	
98½	17½	6.74	Inner Workings	37½	- 10		
125	32½	0.84	Integrd As Mgt	32½		...	
103½	24	24.60	Intelligent Env	77½	- 5	...	
487½	330	25.30	Inter-Alliance	450	- 5	...	
140	108	22.60	Interior Services	132		3.6	11.4
119½	97½	5.38	Inter Link Foods	114½		2.2	9.7
180½	37½	67.30	Internet Tech	150	- 14	...	
647½	372½	79.70	Intl Greetings	577½	- 7	1.9	16.3
172½	27½	15.40	IOC Intl	49½			
425	128¾	19.10	ITG Group	322½	- 37½		43.2
262½	170	23.80	JSB Software Tech	250	- 2½		...
97½	42½	8.66	James R Knowles	45½	- 1	4.6	14.8
49½	32½	3.26	Jardinerie Ints	37	- 1½		10.0
416	250	18.50	Jennings Bros	250	- 15	4.2	11.1
4	1¼	2.81	J Lewis Hford	2		6.3	14.7
62½	40½	8.76	Jordec	41½			9.7
46½	17½	3.94	Jumbo Intl	22			

1998 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3	1	6.79	Just Group	1½	...	...	...
42½	30½	3.51	Kern River	30½	...	...	...
55½	11½	1.40	Keystone Soft	12½	- 4	...	...
25½	3		Keystone Wts	3	- 2½	...	...
193½	136½	13.30	Kingfisher Ls	137½	+ 1	2.1	14.0
55	45		LTG Technologies	45	...	...	8.8
280	95	6.64	Lady in Leisure	112½	+ 7½	2.2	9.7
260	122½	9.18	Landround	204	...	3.1	16.9
427½	370	25.90	Lawrence	370	...	3.0	12.3
5750	3750	80.80	Lawrie Group	4250	...	2.4	4.3
90¾	15½	1.77	Lepco	16½	- 1	...	...
415	296½	60.10	Linton Park	305	...	9.5	3.6
495	305	6.10	Loades	305	...	0.5	...
31½	9½	5.60	Loftus Road	14	...	...	...
10¾	6¾	3.57	Lond & Edin Pub	10¾	+ 2¼	...	...
125	75	3.98	London Town	75	...	3.8	5.1
51	7½	0.45	London Town Wts	45	...	...	...
191½	127½	4.67	Longbridge Intl	141½	...	4.2	11.6
144½	36½	1.31	Longmead	36½	...	7.7	4.9
2	0½	1.75	Lotteryking	1	...	...	12.2
1	0¼	0.09	Lotteryking Wts	0½	...	...	...
36½	20½	4.27	MMS Petroleum	35	- ½	...	...
1½	0¾	13.60	MV Sports	0¾	...	...	...
23¾	5½	7.58	Magnum Power	8	+ ¾	...	...
517½	267½	42.80	Majestic Wine	310	- 2½	2.1	18.8
12¾	4	8.25	Mano River UK	11¾	+ 1	...	...
9½	4¼	4.54	Manx & O'seas	5¾	...	...	...
55½	32½	4.81	Market Link Pb	32½	...	3.5	10.2
115	73	1.70	Matrix Hlthcare	74	...	5.1	...
13¾	10¾	5.42	Mears Group	11½	+ ¼	3.5	8.7
38½	17	32.20	Medisys	19¾	- ¼	...	...
65½	19½	15.00	Megalomedia	20½	...	1.5	22.8
56½	11½	0.14	Megalomedia Wts	12½	...	...	...
65½	33	4.89	Methven's	33½	...	...	...
114½	109½	13.90	Metnor Group	109½	...	...	18.7
115	80	4.88	Metrodome	80	...	...	...
191½	45½	38.20	Minorplanet	78½	- 1½	...	...
85½	35	8.25	Mondas	65½	- 2	...	...
380	195	27.50	Moneyway	235	- 5	3.2	...
124	51	3.95	Moorlcashel	52	+ ½	...	4.3
70½	34½	9.45	Mulberry Group	45	...	4.2	...
3¾	2	2.07	MultiMedia	3	...	...	...
13¼	6¾	8.50	Murray Financial Corpn	8½	+ 1	...	...
15¼	8	0.59	NECA	8	...	3.1	...
71½	40½	26.10	NMT	66½	+ ½	...	...
135	52½	8.62	NPP	115	- 17	...	27.9
375	160	28.80	Nsb Retail Sys	261½	+ 26½	0.3	30.5
225	145	11.50	NWF Grp	145	- 5	6.9	7.1
195	140	10.20	Nash (Wm)	145	...	6.9	5.6
5½	4½	4.68	Nat Bldg Mats	4¾	...	...	...
105	105	2.10	Nat Bldg Prf	105	...	...	...
90	40½	11.60	Netcall	56	- 2	...	...
80	80	1.52	Norhomes	80	...	...	24.8
25	2	0.50	Nthn Petlm	2¼	...	...	...
80½	45½	2.97	Northstar Sec	45½			24.7
55½	17½	0.35	Northstar Sec Wts	17½	...	...	...
27½	27½	13.80	Offshore Tool & Energy	27½	...	...	...
62½	50½	10.10	Old Monk Company	55½	- 1	...	15.1
285	12½	5.12	On Line	155	+ 42½	...	...
227½	77	6.63	Optodast	78½	- 4	2.4	9.0
24½	8	23.70	Oxford Biomedica	20	+ 1	...	...
1¼	0½	9.81	Pacific Media	0½		...	...
33½	7	3.55	Pan Andean Res	7½	+ ¼	...	...
32½	16½	2.35	Parallel Pcts	18½	- 1	...	...
245	220	5.38	Park Ests(Lrv)	220		5.8	14.9
18½	8½	5.98	Pathfinder Props	8½		...	4.9
154½	77	9.98	Peel Hotels	153½			...
21	5½	4.03	Pembertons	8¼	...		...
183½	91½	8.48	Pencarc Intl	128½	- 3	...	16.9
55½	34½	10.66	Personal No Co	40	- ½	...	...
155	58½	20.30	Petra Diamonds	60	+ 1½	...	...
122	42	0.73	Petra Dmnds Wt	43½	...	...	...
30½	10½	7.42	Philippine Gd	11	- ½	...	27.0
62½	10	3.20	Pilat Tech	13½		11.1	4.5
210½	162½	28.60	Policy Master Grp	202½	...		47.0
297½	117½	31.10	PolyDoc	152½	- 4		...
151½	53½	11.20	Polymasc Pharms	53½	- 1½		
1½	0½	1.09	Portum Foods	0½	...		

1998 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1	0¾	0.16	Portum Fds Wts	0¾	...	...	...
16	10½	11.80	Premier Asset Mgt	13½	+ ¼	...	10.3
182½	160½	6.09	Premier Direct Grp	164½	+ 4	...	5.3
7	2¼	120.00	Prestbury Group	3½	- ¼	...	50.9
445	310	7.14	Preston Nth E	340	...	...	
72½	62½	4.43	Private & Comm	71½	...	1.0	12.9
280	255	9.81	Property & Cap	257½	...	...	...
46½	6¾	9.52	Proteome Scies	12¼	- ¾	...	...
57½	45	1.98	Pubs n Bars	53½	+ 3½	...	...
107½	47½	10.10	Pycroft & Arnold	65	+ 11½	3.4	11.3
118½	69½	12.20	Q Group	70	- ½	0.9	11.2
847½	215	69.70	Ramco Egy	230	- 15	...	52.9
10¾	6¾	13.50	Range Cooker	8½	+ 1	1.5	7.1
137½	77½	16.60	Raphael ZH	111½	- 1	3.4	9.0
67½	15½	2.84	Recycling Servs	17½	...	...	16.0
19½	1½	0.89	Reflec	3	...	...	...
7	1½	1.64	Revelation Plc	1½	...	25.0	...
20½	5	3.62	Riceman Insce	5½	...	...	...
111½	66½	3.63	Romtec	68½	+ 2	2.9	...
357½	130	18.00	SBS	205	...	2.0	16.6
152½	38	6.67	SCI Ent	52½	+ 2	...	...
110	47½	11.20	Salestore	50	- 2½	...	...
132½	112½	6.78	Savoy Asset Mgt	125½	...	4.2	13.7
243½	136½	36.00	Science Sys	211½	...	0.7	29.1
23	7½	1.22	Scotswood Inds	11½	...	...	...
3	1	3.28	Screen	1¼	...	...	...
42½	1½	0.49	Selector	2½	...	...	...
190½	118½	9.80	Shellbone	118½	- 12	4.9	6.5
87½	47½	2.52	Shelton (M)	47½	- 5	11.1	6.3
47½	3½	28.60	Sibir Energy	4¼	- ¼	...	...
4¼	2½	8.71	Sira Bus Serv	3¾	...	2.4	13.4
65½	10½	4.25	Sodra Petroleum	10½	...	...	...
72½	35½	3.12	Solid State Sp	49½	...	1.3	31.2
285	190½	11.00	Solitaire	240	...	3.1	21.9
44½	14½	4.04	Soundtracs	40	- ½	1.4	...
3½	1	1.96	South Beach Concepts	1	...	...	...
94½	45½	9.40	Southern Vectis	47½	- 3	6.1	6.8
99½	54½	23.10	Sports & Out Media	75	+ 2½	...	28.5
147½	127½	8.11	Springboard Venture Managers	147½	...	...	...
860	170	21.60	Staffware	170	- 15	1.5	19.8
170	60	31.80	Stanford Rook	160	+ 4	...	...
198½	3½	2.28	Stentor	19½	...	...	...
71½	2		Stentor Warrants	4	...	...	...
103½	80	4.40	SupaBule	80	- 5½	...	...
155	125	12.50	Sutton Harbour	125	...	3.5	18.8
43	4	2.85	Syst Integ Rsch	22	- 5½	...	...
85½	47½	22.40	Systems Intl	65½	- 2	...	20.9
5¾	3½	5.49	Talisman House	3½	...	...	8.8
2	1	0.04	Talisman House Warrants	1	...	...	...
67½	20½	5.26	Theo Fennell	32½	...	...	35.0
5¾	4½	9.00	Thomas Potts	4½	- ¼	0.5	10.6
41½	15	1.96	Tom Hoskins	19	...	...	12.4
117½	52½	8.45	Total Office	52½	...	12.4	7.3
145	93½	9.56	Touchstone Grp	97½	- 1	0.4	14.1
70	13½	6.58	Tradepoint Fcl	22½	+ 6	...	...
102½	47½	7.98	Tricorder Tech	52½	+ 2	...	...
160	135	6.72	Trinity Care	140	- 5	4.8	12.7
200	141¼	5.25	UA Group	150	- 17½	3.9	...
39½	38	3.59	Univent	39½	...	...	18.9
235	122	14.50	VDC	133	+ 9½	5.2	11.4
42½	6	20.50	Victory Corp	6½	- ¾	...	...
341½	166	36.00	Virtual Internet	179	- 6	...	...
160	41½	1.52	Voss Net	43½	...	...	...
85½	26½	9.47	WML	33	- 2¼	...	32.4
5	2¼	3.21	Weeks Group	2¼	...	6.1	9.8
87	45	2.48	West 175 Ester	45	...	...	...
£145	9500	8.39	West Bromwich	£115	...	...	13.3
13½	7¾	3.59	Western Selectn	8¼	- ¼	3.8	27.4
4½	1½	0.11	Western Sel Wts	1¾	...	...	...
300	17½	1.96	Westmount Engy	17½	...	...	...
85	75	6.38	Willington	75	...	8.0	3.1
2¾	2¼	2.46	Wilmslow Group	2½	...	...	...
84½	55½	8.84	Winchester	65½	+ 4		34.3
205	55	16.80	World Telecom	67	- 4		
150	135	4.32	Wynnstay Props	135	...	4.9	16.3
15	5½	14.10	Xavier Corp	14¼	...	...	13.6
68½	53½	4.45	Yeoman	58½	...		
7	3	0.69	Zicor Mining	3	...	...	...

Seeing the glass as half empty

Why are businessmen so gloomy about the economic outlook? According to most business surveys, we should expect an outright recession this year. On the whole, though, economists are less pessimistic, and the Bank of England last week expressed the view that a recession would probably be avoided. Do you find that reassuring?

It used to be an article of faith among professional economists that surveys should be accorded little weight. Better to stick to the hard, official data and to use that as inputs into conventional economic forecasting models. But it emerged that some surveys, notably the CBI Industrial Trends Survey, had a very good forecasting record, and more recently the official data on almost everything have been shrouded in varying degrees of darkness. So now when the surveys tell you something stark about the future, you should sit up and take notice.

You can still try to play down the CBI Industrial Trends Survey because it refers solely to manufacturing, which now represents less than a quarter of the economy, and whose relationship with the rest may have changed. Yet the service sector surveys are also pretty dire. Perhaps they are taking their cue from the mass of news reports and commentary about the difficult world situation. They may reflect an overestimation of the effects of the crises in Asia, Russia, Brazil and elsewhere on the inhabitants of number 39 Acacia Avenue, Croydon.

Or perhaps the surveys are revealing businessmen's lack of faith in the MPC. Having listened to the mantra that the Bank would do all it could to prevent inflation, they have not anticipated that the MPC would be ready to reduce interest rates as boldly as it has.

What all these explanations have in common is the conclusion that the surveys are misleading, and that the future will not turn out to be as bad. That would be a comfortable result — which is one of the reasons why I am suspicious. I am particularly mindful that few economists saw the 1990-92 recession coming, and even when it was upon them, they grossly underestimated its severity. Yet at the time, much of the anecdotal evidence from business was very gloomy. Is it simply that business pessimism turns out to be self-fulfilling? Or were businessmen picking up something that the economists were missing?

Conventional economic forecasting is based on the presumption that relationships which held good in the past will hold good in the future. But when there is a fundamental change, such model-based predictions break down. The principle thing that forecasters missed about the 1990-92 recession in the UK was the emergence of negative equity in the housing market and the severity of its effect upon consumers' expenditure.


ROGER BOOTLE

Could there be something similar at work now? One thing you can be sure of: it won't be the same factor. Not only is widespread negative equity unlikely, but the forecasters are on to this one now. It will be something different. You are going to ask what it might be. I confess, I do not know — though I do have some general ideas.

We live in a period of enormous structural change. Even though the results may eventually be massively beneficial, change is unsettling and there are bound to be losers as well as winners. Perhaps businessmen's gloom and consumers' caution is a reflection of the clarity of the losses contrasted with the opaqueness of the possible gains.

You can see the negatives everywhere. Not only is manufacturing beset by strong sterling and global overcapacity, but financial services are facing increasing competition. Some large retailers, including those mainstays of the past, J Sainsbury and Marks & Spencer, are reeling. In several sectors, even when the business is there, it is difficult to make it sufficiently profitable. Meanwhile, businessmen can see serious threats to their future. The dominant mood is corporate insecurity.

What's more, this mood affects employees. That could be why consumers' expenditure is weaker than you would expect on the basis of current income and wealth. More and more people do not expect things to carry on quite as before, and that includes the security of their jobs and the value of their prospective pensions. They can see the downsides of the structural changes happening in society but they cannot yet see the upsides.

That is not how it works in America. No country is further ahead in the structural change stakes, yet you do not see signs of gloom and doom in business or among consumers. Quite the opposite. Doubtless, this is partly because the economy has been powering ahead so strongly, but that merely serves to restate the question.

Some of the answer might be innate American optimism, but there is surely something else. It is difficult to be gloomy about the implications of structural change when the benefits, including the sources of new employment and new wealth, are everywhere to be seen. In America, whatever the new technology takes away with one hand it more than gives back with the other.

The superstars of the stock market have been the Internet stocks, and mega-wealthy individuals are increasingly to be found among the owners of new, high-tech or information-based businesses.

There are no comparable examples on this side of the Atlantic. Unlike Americans, we may need to experience recovery from recession before we can feel buoyant about our future in the new economy. My suspicion is that the surveys are picking up something real about the state of confidence and that the professional forecasters will be caught flat-footed — again.

Wright sells £5m Chrysalis shares

CHRIS WRIGHT, chairman of Chrysalis, has raised a further £5.6 million through the sale of shares in his media group (Martin Barrow writes).

Mr Wright, who sold shares worth £4.5 million a year ago to help to settle the bill for his divorce, sold 750,000 shares at 750p each, representing 2.39 per cent of the company. The share sale, announced after the formal Stock Exchange close on Friday, reduces Mr Wright's shareholding to below 30 per cent.

Chrysalis shares have enjoyed a good run in the new year, rising from 634p, amid renewed interest in the sector. Mr Wright's remaining shares are now worth about £70 million, even though the company, which has been investing heavily in its diverse media interests, has made a profit in only one year out of the past five.

Mr Wright is a prominent investor in Loftus Road, parent company of Queens Park Rangers, the football club, and in Wasps, the rugby club.

Eurofighter consortium set for £2.8bn order from Greece

By Martin Barrow

GREECE is expected to confirm today that it is ready to order up to 80 Eurofighter aircraft.

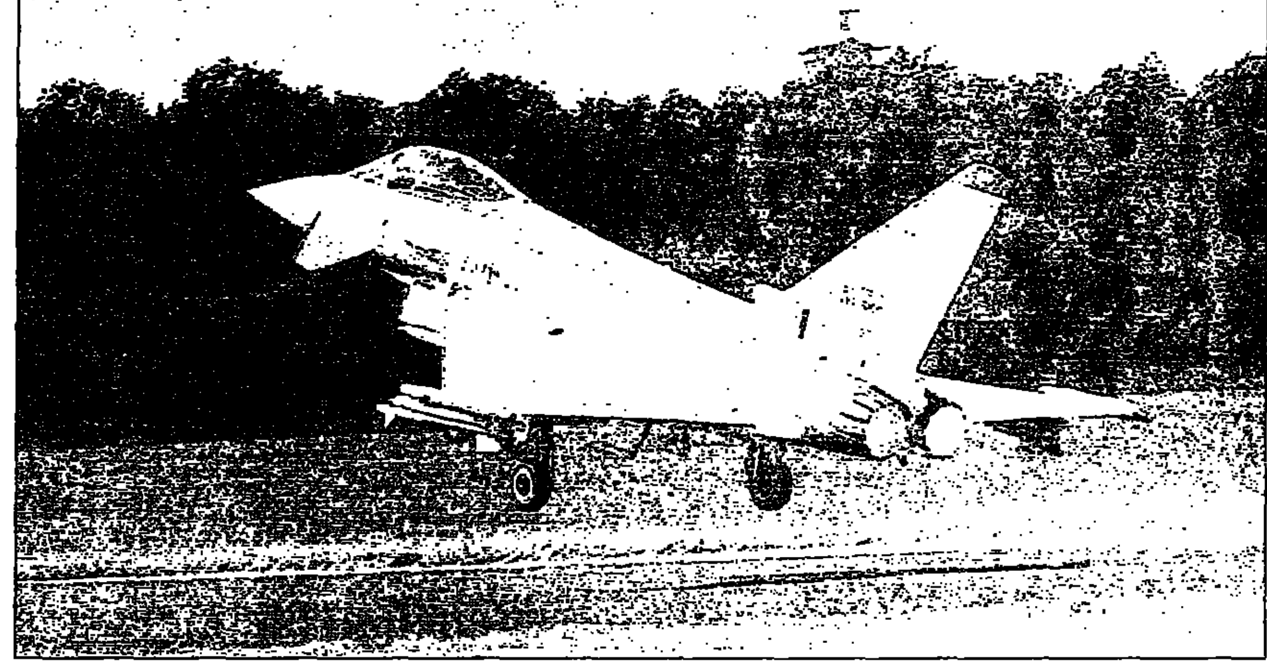
The £2.8 billion contract will represent the largest export order won so far by the European consortium, of which British Aerospace is a member.

However, Greece is placing the order for Eurofighters against the wishes of the country's military hierarchy, which wanted the Government to buy American-built F15s.

Military sources said the armed forces wanted to order 35 F15 aircraft from Boeing and the replacement or renovation of many F16 aircraft made by Lockheed Martin, and of Mirage 2000 aircraft by Dassault, which have aged or been lost in use.

Although Greece also looked at buying more Mirage jets from France and also considered the Russian-made Sukhoi, the Greek military held that the F15 was the best-performing aircraft available.

However, the Government ruled that the aircraft would bust the country's defence budget, with 40 F15s costing close to $3.8 billion (about £2.33 billion).


The Typhoon fighter aircraft was chosen by the Greek Government because it beat the American-built F15 on price

The choice of a new fighter aircraft is part of a massive effort to modernise the Greek armed forces at a cost of more than £10 billion, which was agreed in November 1996.

The purchase of the Eurofighter, now known as the Typhoon, will also impose financial constraints on the Greek defence ministry, but the country wants to open talks as soon as possible with the Eurofighter members, comprising Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain, over funding.

Delivery of the Typhoon would begin in 2005. Until then production lines at British Aerospace and its partners, comprising Dasa, Alenia and Casa, are committed to producing 610 of the aircraft for their domestic air forces, including 232 for Britain. Greece also ratified an earlier decision to buy 11 French short-range Crotale missile batteries, made by Thomson-CSF, and 45 T6A trainer aircraft made by Raytheon, of America.

Ladbroke hit by US double whammy

By Dominic Walsh

LADBROKE, the hotel and gaming group that is poised to take over Stakis, has suffered a blow to its US gaming ambitions by being forced to pull out of an $80 million (£50 million) deal to acquire the Bicycle Club, a Los Angeles card club.

The deal, which had been under discussion for more than two years, was scuppered by a combination of new anti-smoking laws, the effects of the Asian crisis on high-stakes gaming and new rules allowing California's Indian tribes to develop Las Vegas-style casinos.

The same factors have prompted Ladbroke to reduce its exposure to the San Pablo Card Club, near San Francisco, where trading is proving difficult. It has agreed to sell the club for just over its $28 million book value to an Indian tribe while retaining the contract to operate it. Ladbroke is prevented from operating slot machines, but the implementation of the so-called Proposition 5 legislation allows tribal owners to do so. The sale, which gets round that barrier, is expected to take 12 months to complete.

A spokesman for Ladbroke said the negotiations to acquire the Bicycle Club from the Justice Department, which seized the venue in 1990 amid allegations of drugs money laundering, had become "an administrative, regulatory and licensing nightmare". He added: "The outlook for our clubs in California has deteriorated. We have taken these steps in response to that situation."

Analysts interpreted the moves as a setback to Ladbroke's ambitions to create a significant presence in the US gaming industry. Although it completed the $87 million acquisition of the Colorado Gaming and Entertainment Co in August, in the profit estimates accompanying last week's Stakis offer document the group admitted that profitability from the business — Colorado's biggest casino operator — "has not yet met expectations" due to poor weather.

Although its racetracks in California and Pennsylvania "performed satisfactorily", a third track in Detroit was closed at the end of last year.

New fund chases corporate cash

By Marianne Curphey

THE City's appetite for share buybacks has prompted the launch of a new fund today which offers companies with a large cash pile a low-risk alternative to cash deposits.

Fears that the economy has peaked have led corporations to consider buying back their own stock as a way of increasing shareholder value. Many have built up cash reserves for this purpose but are receiving relatively low returns on their holdings.

Therefore, Merrill Lynch Mercury Asset Management (MLMAM) has launched a US-style short-term institutional liquidity fund as an alternative to cash deposits.

The funds, in sterling, dollars and euros, aim to achieve returns in excess of the rates available on the interbank deposit market. They are aimed at corporations, insurance companies and pension funds in the UK. Anthony Simpson, head of MLMAM's client business in the UK, said cash levels in FTSE 350 companies, excluding financials, now exceeds £65 billion.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 32

TERNAR

(b) A student of the third or lowest rank at St Andrew's, and in other Scottish universities. From the Latin ternarius, ternary. "Men who could afford to pay a Secondar's fee often entered themselves as ternars."

URSINE

(b) Of or pertaining to, characteristic of, due to, a bear or bears. Ursus is a bear in Latin, and the Romance languages are full of its fallout. "Quotations from Scripture as to the ursine fate of prophet-mockers."

TEFF

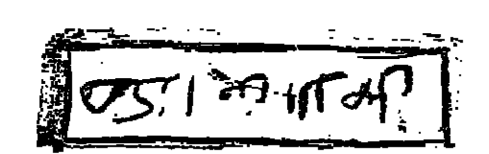
(b) The principal cereal of Abyssinia, Poa (Eragrostis) abyssinica, producing minute red or white grains from which bread is made. Introduced elsewhere as a fodder plant. From the Amharic and Tigre names. "There are three kinds of meal made from teff, of which the best is as white as flour, the second is of a browner colour, and the last is nearly black."

TURLOUGH

(c) The Gaelic word for a brook, ground covered with water in winter and dry in summer. From tur whole, absolute, entire + loch a lake or pool. "When the water during floods rises in the shallow hollows, it overflows the adjoining lands, forming the furloughs, which are usually lakes in winter and callows in summer."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 ... Rxh2+!; 2 Kxh2 Ng4+ and White is swiftly mated, e.g. 3 Kg1 Bc5+ 4 Kh1 Qh3+ and mate follows





Chronic ailments: the NHS has been an undoubted success and helped to increase the length and quality of people's lives, but is bedevilled by long waiting lists

Time to take the scalpel to a stricken patient

Sir David Barnes, chairman of AstraZeneca, in a plea for a long-overdue remedy, argues that we should open our minds to new and radical ways of funding the health service

The vision held by the founders of the National Health Service some 51 years ago was that healthcare should be available to all, irrespective of their financial standing, at the time of need and free of charge. It was — and remains — a compelling vision. And despite the criticism levelled at the NHS today, there is no doubt that over the half century the British people have enjoyed a level of health provision that has generally served them well and been delivered at modest economic cost.

In recent years, and at increasingly frequent intervals, the question arises as to whether the NHS in its present form can continue to meet the *reasonable* expectations of us all. I am beginning to doubt that that can be the case.

Why should anyone doubt? The first reason is because of changing demographics. The very success of the health service in extending life expectancy brings with it additional pressures. Since the foundation of the National Health Service, the proportion of people over 65 years old in the United Kingdom has increased by more than 60 per cent, and of those over 75 years by close to 80 per cent. Studies have shown that the 65 to 74 age group absorb about three times the resources per head that the 5 to 65 age group do: the over 75 age group absorb about eight times as much resource.

To a significant extent, our attitude to these changes will depend on our own positioning in those age groups. It is, of course, one thing to have extended life but quite another to ensure that that extended life is also a quality one. I do not think that I had heard of Alzheimer's disease until 15 years ago. Today, both within and without the family, it is something that is increasingly referred to in social discussion. This is a single example of a condition associated with senility: there are many more. Clearly then, demographic change is a factor that will continue to place strain on the available health resources.

Increased social mobility adds to the strain of changed demographics. Fifty-one years ago families tended to live in the same geographical area and were able to support those individuals who became increasingly frail or required day-to-day or hour-to-hour supervision within the family. That is not the case today. I live in Oxfordshire, my daughter in Cheshire, my son in California, my brother in Denmark and my sister in the Isle of Man. Although our relationships remain strong, distance makes the provision of close supportive care an impossibility. Among my contemporaries, this geographic scatter is a common experience.

Important as demographic change and increased social mobility are in terms of increasing the demand for healthcare, they are much less significant than the increased intensity of healthcare. What do I mean by "increased intensity"? New technology and new products continue to be welcomed because they provide improved methods of treatment, or treatment for the first time, of conditions that were previously untreatable and in many cases would have led to earlier death.

Professor Christiaan Barnard caused the whole world to wonder at his skill when he undertook the first human heart transplant, but today those techniques have been developed and extended to the point where heart transplant surgery has become almost routine. It is, of course, an expensive procedure in itself and the need for the life-long provision of anti-rejection drugs places additional strain on health budgets.

There are thousands of patients who would benefit today from a cardiac transplant: the only limitation is the availability of suitable donor hearts. If that limitation were to be suddenly removed, then the ability to fund heart transplants would become the limiting factor (assuming enough skilled medical staff were available). Similarly, the technology exists today to treat the vast majority of patients suffering from kidney failure either through dialysis or through kidney transplants. Increasingly the limitation is becoming an economic one.

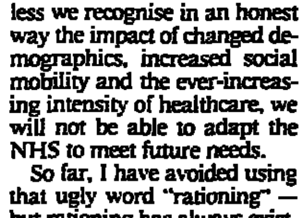
As a young man, I recall people wondered and were amazed at the success of the Charnley hip joint operation. Today the technology exists to provide all who need hip joint replacements with relief — (also knee joints and finger joints) — but patients are being placed in long queues. Why? Because of economic limitation.

There are many additional examples of intensive medical care that one could cite. Such as the resources devoted to children who are many weeks premature at birth; or those who have cardiac bypass surgery. The list is increasingly a long one. Each of us is consoled by the thought that these technological advances are available today, should we have the need to resort to them.

It is difficult for any individual, and particularly for a politician, to suggest that the NHS in its present form cannot continue to meet the reasonable expectations of all patients. But the intensity of medical care is changing what is regarded as a reasonable expectation. Unless we recognise in an honest way the impact of changed demographics, increased social mobility and the ever-increasing intensity of healthcare, we will not be able to adapt the NHS to meet future needs.

So far, I have avoided using that ugly word "rationing" — but rationing has always existed and will increasingly exist. To stay as we are will mean the provision of healthcare free of charge for those who have the stamina and endurance to arrive at the front of an increasingly lengthy queue. For those without stamina (and without financial means to access private care) healthcare provision can only deteriorate.

It is, of course, one thing to point out the increasing dilemma we face: and quite another to suggest a better way forward. Experience in the US of a "mixed system" of state provision (Medicare and Medicaid) with insurance is not wholly reassuring. While the quality of healthcare provision is undoubtedly high, the economic cost is even greater. The open-



market situation has led to the oversupply of medical practitioners, the construction of too many clinics and the provision of excess facilities in terms of supporting technology (for example, the wish of every hospital to have an MRI scanner). Worse still, the litigious nature of American healthcare encourages an excessive use of diagnostic facilities and laboratory procedures. Malpractice insurance in certain parts of the country and in certain specialisms is now available only at a premium of $200,000 per annum.

Looking in a different direction, Singapore has been more successful in developing a "mixed system". The financing philosophy of Singapore's healthcare delivery system is based on *individual* responsibility, coupled with government subsidies to keep basic healthcare affordable. The key principle is one of co-payment that applies even to the most heavily subsidised wards or services. Patients pay part of the cost of medical services that they use, and pay more when they demand or elect for a higher level of service.




Barnes: what is reasonable?

Medisave, Medishield and Medifund are the three key programmes.

Under the Medisave scheme every working individual is required by law to contribute to Medisave under his or her own personal account. Such contributions are shared equally between the employer and the employee, are tax-exempt and, better still, earn interest. Instead of the flat type of national insurance contribution that we are used to here in the UK that disappears into a general fund, each individual has his or her personal account. This account can be used to pay for the individual's medical treatment over and above the state-subsidised level, and can be used to cover the expenses of other members of the family should there be a need to "top up" that family member's account. In the event of death, any credit in the fund forms part of the estate of the deceased and can be passed in the same way as other assets to beneficiaries.

Medishield is a basic low-cost catastrophic illness insurance scheme to help Medisave members meet medical expenses arising from serious or prolonged illness. While Medisave is compulsory for all workers, Medishield is an elective scheme. Annual premiums are standardised by age group, with the premium increasing from S$12 per annum for those aged up to 30, to S$132 per annum for those aged over 65. Medishield pays 80 per cent of excess medical costs above a certain deductible level.

Finally, Medifund is an endowment fund set up specifically to help the poor and needy of Singapore who are unable to finance their medical care in any other way. The fund was established by the Government and only interest income from the endowment fund is used to pay hospital bills for the indigent sector.

No system can be described as perfect or free of flaws. Here in the UK those who can afford it can provide the equivalent of the Singapore Medishield benefits through private healthcare insurance. What is perhaps frustrating for individual patients is the feeling that they have in many cases over several decades paid their national insurance contributions but are unable to access the "individual credit balance" that they feel should exist in their name at the time of need. The Singapore healthcare system would seem to have a distinct advantage here.

Whatever else, I feel that there is a need to establish a greater element of consumer franchise at the basic primary care level. I would like to use my personal account credits to select the general practitioner who was to be responsible for my treatment. Most of us have no such choice today. We are allocated to a particular practice or doctor. Elements of the Medisave and Medishield systems would improve access to healthcare since the gateway is at the primary care/general practitioner level.

But, of course, any politician who suggests such a move would quickly be accused of privatising the NHS. Until that mindset changes, we are trapped in a downward spiral of reducing access to healthcare.

□ *Tomorrow, Greg Dyke on making the NHS better.*

TELEVISION CHOICE

Bodgit and Scarper plc

Raising the Roof
BBC2, 8.00pm

Home improvers come under Paul Kenyon's penetrating scrutiny tonight and he continues his horribly entertaining series about the grubbier aspects of the housing business. Entertaining, that is, if you have not been a victim. Kenyon's latest report includes a figure familiar from many a consumer investigation, he who does his worst and then covers his back against complaints by deliberately (and legally) going out of business and starting up under another name. This time it is the director of a conservatory company, who to the dismay of his customers reinvents himself having left a trail of useless guarantees. We also meet the salesman who tries to persuade customers to buy his kitchens by breaking down in tears and a kitchen company whose manager has assaulted visitors to the showroom.

Animal ER
Channel 5, 8.30pm

Yet another documentary series about sick animals suggests either that Channel 5 is running short of ideas or that it is not ashamed to steal a good formula. Narrated by Tom Conti, but with no Rolf Harris figure to pull things together on screen, *Animal ER* is based in a veterinary practice in Salisbury which is open 24 hours a day throughout the year and treats sick cats and ailing racehorses with equal facility. Tonight's cat is pregnant and has been behaving oddly, while the racehorse has something wrong with its gut. There is also a dog brought in after being badly injured in a road accident. These three stories are crisply intercut with a fourth, about a tricky operation to remove an eyeball from a young calf which threatens to end in tears for the animal's eight-year-old owner.

Forgotten
ITV, 9.00pm

A three-part thriller by Caleb Ranson, a writer new to television, is set in a perfect Cotswold village where superficially all is calm and contentment. But not for long. Hardly have the villagers finished celebrating Harvest Festival than an eight-year-old girl goes missing and the police are dragging the reservoir for her body. Anonymous letters implicate Ben Turner (Paul McGann), who has a happy family life and an agreeable job running the secondhand bookshop. Seemingly unconnected, but connoisseurs of television mysteries will not be fooled, is the arrival of Rachel Monroe (Amanda Burton), a figure from Turner's darker past. Ranson juggles his narrative with skill, telling us enough to hold the attention but leaving plenty of questions tantalisingly unanswered.



Amanda Burton and Paul McGann star in the tense new drama *Forgotten* (ITV, 9pm)

Cutting Edge: Clapham Common
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The Ron Davies episode was bound to send film-makers scurrying to the scene of his downfall and Paddy Wivell makes no attempt to disguise the fact that Davies was his peg. Lurid tabloid headlines about the former Welsh Secretary confront the regulars in the Clapham Common café and part of Davies's resignation speech is played on the soundtrack. But this is merely the prelude to a broad-brushed impression, delivered without commentary, of the common and the people who frequent it. The area's reputation as a rendezvous for gay men is not ignored. As one of them says, they are not here for a Bible class. But there is a more to Clapham Common than that. Wivell homes fruitfully in on the café, which is run by a former ice-cream millionaire and is the focus for the sort of quirky characters that documentary makers must dream about.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Cry of the Bittern
Radio 4, 10.45am

The drama series slot at the end of *Woman's Hour* has produced some excellent work and judged by its opening this sounds like another good example. *Cry of the Bittern* comes from the Pebble Mill stable where the *The Archers* is produced and the producer of this series is Vanessa Whitburn, editor of *The Archers*. The story is billed as part environmental mystery, part love story and certainly there is a modern, and convincing, ring to the tale of a couple whose relationship is already under strain when a collision in their professional lives — he works for a company wanting to build a huge new development in rural Norfolk, she works for the environment agency in the same county — threatens to make the split permanent.

Tuning Into Children
Radio 4, 11.00am

The half-term starting point for this series may be assumed to be coincidental because the target audience is parents, grandparents and child care professionals. The six programmes aim to improve our understanding of what happens to children between birth and five years old. The programmes are themed, starting today with *Time to Talk, Time to Play*, in which Kirsty Wark talks to brain scientists and child psychologists about the key role of stimulation in child development. The series is supported by a pocket book, written by Libby Purves of *The Times* and Dorothy Selleck of the National Children's Bureau, which is available at £5.99 from BBC Education, PO Box 20, Tonbridge, TN12 6WU.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Mark Goodier **12.00pm** Kevin Greening **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Lamacq Live. With Pulp and a look at Radiohead's *The Bends* in Essential Albums **12.00am** The Breezeblock **2.00** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Richard Littlejohn **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Big Band Legends Live. Michael Parkinson presents Billy May and the BBC Big Band in concert (6/6) **8.30** Jools Holland (3/13) **9.30** Mark Lamarr: Shake, Rattle and Roll (4/10) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Katrina Leskanich **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast with Julian Worricker and Victoria Derbyshire **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey **7.00** News Extra **7.30** A Perfect Match. A romantic look at soccer **8.00** Trevor Brooking's Football Night **10.00** Late Night Live with Nick Robinson **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00pm** Let's Talk Soap **1.00** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Peter Deeley **5.00** The SportZone **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Peter and Geoff **10.00** James Merritt **1.00am** Steve Power **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Newstalk **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Record News **8.20** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.35** Health Matters **9.00** World News **9.05** Westway Access **9.20** The Vintage Chart Show **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** The Farming World **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Pick of the World **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Health Matters **2.30** Meridian **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Record News **3.30** Composer of the Month **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: Hit-List **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** The Next Big Thing **7.00** World News **7.05** Health Matters **7.30** Clouded Hills **7.45** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: Hit-List **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Health Matters **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Westway **1.45** Record News **2.00** The World Today **2.30** The Next Big Thing **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and Record of the Week **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourites **2.00** Concerto. Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. John Brunning presents the latest stories **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Mozart (Trio in E flat major; Divertimento in D, Nannerl; Flute Quartet in C; Clarinet Quintet in A) **11.00** Michael Mappin. Wind down with the sound of ambient music **2.00am** Concerto. Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes a review of ENO's new production of Wagner's *Parsifal* directed by Nikolaus Lehnhoff
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Copland (El salon Mexico); Grieg (Piano Concerto in A minor); Bach (Cantata No 4: Christ lag in Todesbanden)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Raphael Wallfisch All this week Joan Bakewell talks to the cellist
11.00 Sound Stories: Exiles Donald Macleod tells the story of the great Roman poet Ovid
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Antonin Dvorak
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Leon McCawley, piano. Mozart (Piano Sonata in E flat, K282); Chopin (Four Impromptus: in A flat, Op 29; in F sharp, Op 36, in G flat, Op 51; in C sharp minor, Op 66, Fantaisie-Impromptu); Scriabin (Five Preludes, Op 16; Piano Sonata No 4 in F sharp)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth, Anne Evans, soprano, Steven Isserlis, cello
4.00 Opera in Action with Robert Lloyd
4.45 Music Machine Tommy Pearson reports from last year's Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland (r)
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty explores the lively character and musical passions of Georges Auric
7.30 Performance on 3 BBC Philharmonic under Ingo Metzmacher, Peter Donohoe, piano. The final concert in the Royal Northern College of Music's week-long Henze Festival, given last November in the presence of the composer. Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A); Henze (Piano Concerto No 1, first UK performance; Symphony No 8)
8.55 Postscript: Aria Each night this week, Peggy Reynolds unravels the dramatic, musical and emotional impact of a favourite operatic aria. (r)
9.25 Mitzi Meyerson The second of two short recitals
10.00 Voices Sir Richard Eyre, former director of the Royal National Theatre, talks to Iain Burnside
10.45 Mixing It with Mark Russell and Robert Sandall
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton talks to the Canadian singer and pianist Diana Krall
12.00am Composer of the Week (Telemann (r)
1.00 Through the Night Includes **1.00** Vienna Sextet. Strauss (Prelude: Capriccio), Zemlinsky (Two Movements) Korngold (Sextet); Josef Strauss (Dynamiden Waltz) **2.20** Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 1) **3.10** Cherubini (Requiem Mass No 1) **4.00** Paganini (Sonata Concertata) **4.25** Naumann (Symphony from the opera Cora) **4.35** Noskowski (The Steppes) **5.15** Weber (Piano Sonata No 4) **5.35** Szokolay (Hommage to Bartok)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today With Sue MacGregor and Edward Stourton
9.00 Start the Week Hosted by Jeremy Paxman
9.45 (FM) Serial: Planet of the Blind Part one. Stephen Kuusisto's autobiographical tale of growing up without sight
9.45 (LW) Daily Service With the St Peter's Consort. Director of music John North
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests. Includes *The Cry of the Bittern*. See Choice
11.00 Tuning into Children New series looking at child development. See Choice (1/6)
11.30 Bangers and Mash Comedy series by Katie Hims. Last in series (6/6)
12.00pm (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Consumer news and stories
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Counterpoint Penultimate heat of the music quiz
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Praying Hands The experiences of three generations of women on a pilgrimage to Lourdes. Darkly comic tale by Gil Adams, with Ann Rye, Sarah Parks and Clare Jordan
3.00 Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444 Vincent Duggleby takes listeners' calls on financial issues
3.30 Science in the Attic Series profiling the work of amateur scientists, beginning with the discoveries of the part-time astronomer Guy Hurst (1/5) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 31 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 The Food Programme The changing face of the restaurant trade, as big businesses seek their cut of the profits (r)
4.30 Turning World Jenni Murray and guests look at human interest stories from around the world
5.00 PM Presented by Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Just a Minute Derek Nimmo, Clement Freud, Tony Slattery and Stephen Frost try to speak for 60 seconds without hesitation, repetition or deviation at St James's Concert Hall, Guernsey
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson meets the acclaimed Scottish crime-writer Ian Rankin
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Environmental drama by Tim Jackson, starring Rachel Atkins and Ian Pepperell. See Choice (r)
8.00 Two Flies on the Wall David Stafford goes behind the scenes of a docusoap
8.30 Analysis: Do Parents Matter? New series. Frances Cairncross discusses the degree to which parents influence their children's behaviour
9.00 Nature Julian Hector marvels at the resilience of the world's ducks. Tough Ducks
9.30 Start the Week Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Post Captain Patrick Malahide reads part one of Patrick O'Brien's historic seafaring novel
11.00 Radio 4 Appeal Lord Ashley champions the cause of the Disability Law Service (r)
11.02 Late Night on 4: Fear on 4 — The Blood of Eva Bergen By Paul Sirett. A pianist falls for a musician haunted by his former lover. With John Church, Tilly Gaunt and Giles Fagan
11.30 (FM) Airs of England Richard Coles explores Victorian English music (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political news
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: All Points North Poet Simon Armitage reads from his book of wry reports on life in his home village of Marsden, West Yorkshire (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

A sitcom that sank on its Atlantic crossing





Paul Hoggart

The difference between British and American sitcoms is that we can't do "bland" and they can. Our best shows are always based on characters teetering over an abyss of misery, desperation or chaos. They are written by one, at the most two, individual geniuses. They have short runs, each show as lovingly crafted as a Chippendale TV and video cabinet.

Successful American sitcoms, by contrast, are usually upbeat and cheerful, assembled by highly "managed" teams, under a ferocious quality control system. This ensures the correct number of wisecracks, neatly co-ordinated with the ad breaks. Sugary sentiment and piquant satire are added in like dollops of sauce on a burger. When our stuff gets bland, comfy or, worst of all, wry, the jokes become pallid and feeble or disappear altogether.

So it was intriguing to see a cross-over show with a comfy American series re-written for Britain by local writers. **Days Like These** (ITV, Friday) is set in Luton in 1976 and revolves around a bunch of happy-go-lucky youngsters discovering life, love and smoking the odd joint.

In the event, the only aspect of real 1970s life the show evokes is an American sitcom of that period, or earlier, *Happy Days* perhaps, or *The Monkees*. The sets look gaudy and false. The costumes have probably been carefully researched, but they look false too, as if they come from the same agency as *Vanessa*'s guests and are only pretending to be groovy 1970s rags.

Like most dull sitcoms, the show is remorselessly suburban, without satirising suburban life. There is no interesting engagement with real experience. The situations are plausible enough, but because they are all small-town American in origin, they have no observational bite and we don't get the pleasure of remembering the oddities of our past. It is set in Luton but it feels like Nowhereville, Nowhereshire, Noland.

Even the American slickness seems to have got lost on the voyage. It would be unfair to say it is never funny. I managed a wan laugh or two. But why on earth couldn't they commission writers who could write with real wit about what it was like to be young here 23 years ago? A few of them are still alive, I believe.

Whenever some crime or misdemeanour is exposed, we can safely assume that it is the tip of an iceberg most of which lurks beneath the surface of public knowledge. And heaven knows how often talk show hosts such as *Vanessa* and *Trisha* haven't had a clue that some of their guests were fake.

If researchers use agencies to supply "real" human-interest stories on demand, it simply invites corruption, as producers' teams well know. But that is not the root of it. Low budgets, short preparation time, huge pressure to deliver ratings, desperate, sloppy, copy-cat programming; these are the causes of fake television.

If it doesn't exist already, there will soon be an agency offering off-the-peg docusoap scenarios, complete with loveably outrageous characters. For a modest sum you will be able to film anything from the staff of a downmarket campsite to a troupe of transvestite strippers. Just don't ask too many questions.

There were moments during **Love Town** (BBC1, Sunday) when the off-the-wall jollity of the couples who had gone to Gretna Green to be married seemed so forced and contrived that I began to think they must have been supplied by an agency. But then I was reassured by the thought that if they had been fakes they would probably not have been so dispiritingly dreary.

We saw them going into the bathroom, coming out of the bathroom, preparing a wretched selection of snacks in a caravan, trying on kilts in the kilt-hire shop, walking up the gloomy, overcast High Street looking for witnesses. Several of them cackled a lot. When the woman who had got married without telling her parents returned to Wales to break the news, I was certain they were re-enacting their touching reunion.

The loveable eccentric was Jim, a tediously self-conscious fake blacksmith who performs the "anvil weddings" at Gretna Hall. His patter is perfectly geared to the coach parties of pensioners who troupe through between "marriages", but he obviously hopes the series will bring him more exciting bookings.

If *Boyz Unlimited* feels like a send-up of a send-up, *Love Town* just feels like a send-up. "It's ten o'clock and Robert and Sonia are still eating breakfast." That sort of thing. Genuine fake actors would probably be more interesting.

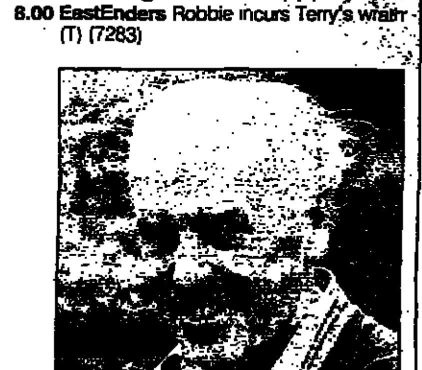
Trust Me I'm A Doctor (BBC2), which returned on Friday is another cheap and cheerful series. I don't expect it will attract high ratings, but at least it proves that you can make an informative, lively and challenging programme on a low budget.

Perky doctor Phil Hammond's main subject this week was the treatment for rectal cancer, which I realise does not make wholesome family entertainment, especially the close-ups of excised growths. A form of surgery, pioneered in England and now used widely abroad, reduces the risk of an untreatable recurrence from over 30 to about 5 per cent. Yet only a minority of British doctors use this technique, and many patients continue to die unnecessarily.

Hammond also asked why herbal drugs with negligible side-effects, used successfully in Germany to treat depression and dementia, were almost unknown here. I wish him a good run before an agency starts offering off-the-peg medical outrages.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (60757)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (62806)
9.00 A Morning with EastEnders (6097573)
9.05 Kilroy (T) (1528689)
9.45 Live EastEnders Phone-In (5827047)
9.50 Potted Reels (T) (5808912)
10.00 The Vanessa Show (T) (5030196)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (6450844)
11.00 EastEnders Pub Quiz (T) (8356405)
11.10 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (r) (T) (6456028)
11.40 Live EastEnders Phone-In (3509775)
11.50 EastEnders Exclusive (T) (1621196)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1620467)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (77825)
12.30 Wipeout (1813329)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48186931)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (12383)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (47815399)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (25794554)
2.05 Ironside (r) (3841115)
2.55 Body Spies (5195405)
3.25 CBBC: Playdays (6018134) **3.45** Littlest Pet Shop (2902318) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (3042009) **4.10** Pocket Dragon Adventures (4922399) **4.20** Anthony Ant (6546009) **4.35** Misery Guts (5880999) **5.00** Newsround (2320467) Rewind (2320467) **5.10** Blue Peter (6972009)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (813028)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (776)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (888)
7.00 This is Your Life (T) (1863)
7.30 Watchdog Healthcheck (T) (912)
8.00 EastEnders Robbie incurs Terry's wrath (T) (7283)



George Cole stars as the ever-awkward Brian (8.30pm)

8.30 Dad The day of Brian's heart operation arrives. Last in series (T) (6318)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Weather (T) (8134)
9.30 Animal Police Trainee Dave Smith scrapes a place on an RSPCA field training course (22863)
10.00 Panorama Are some Labour politicians being undermined by the party hierarchy? (T) (661047)
10.45 The Babysitter's Seduction (1996) FILM Premiere. Thriller, starring Keri Russell as a naive babysitter drawn into a sinister plot by her employer. Directed by David Burton Morris (T) (8590318)
12.10am In Defence of a Married Man (1990) FILM A lawyer defends her husband on a murder charge. Starring Judith Light. Directed by Joel Oliansky (T) (3100697)
1.40 Weather (8436055)
1.45 BBC News 24 (70151142)

WALES

10.00 Labour of Love (1/6) (78554) **10.30 Panorama** (T) (517912) **11.15 FILM: The Babysitter's Seduction** (T) (472950) **12.40am FILM: In Defence of a Married Man** (T) (2521326) **2.10 News** (T) (6041005) **2.15-6.00 BBC News 24** (52942516)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: The Family Ness (3146554) **7.05** Teletubbies (6064196) **7.30** Snorks (2924329) **7.50** Blue Peter (6829283) **8.20** Taz-Mania (7935844) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (3914592) **8.50** Romuald the Reindeer (3910776) **9.00** Space Ark (5934739) **9.10** Short Circuit (4741689) **9.30** Writing and Pictures (1826134) **9.45** Storytime (1821689) **10.00** Teletubbies (60196) **10.30** Words and Pictures (2811283) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (2816738) **11.00** Look and Read (4115509) **11.20** Zig Zag (8100115) **11.40** Landmarks (4491641) **12.05pm** History File (1732842) **12.30** Working Lunch (43711) **1.00** Romuald the Reindeer (94169221)
1.10 The Travel Hour (r) (9823283)
2.10 Sporting Greats (61979592)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3231370)
2.45 Match of Their Day (6/16) (T) (2788912)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (7608450)
3.30 Awash with Colour New series. The Artist Dermot Cavanagh travels through Ireland (134)
4.00 Kaye New series. Presented by Kaye Adams (6199405)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook New series. Cookery challenge show (T) (6192592)
4.55 Esther New series. Studio debate hosted by Esther Rantzen (T) (3436573)
5.30 Today's the Day New series (T) (405)
6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (874405)
6.20 The Simpsons (r) (T) (878221)
6.45 Hit, Miss or Maybe (r) (T) (936979)

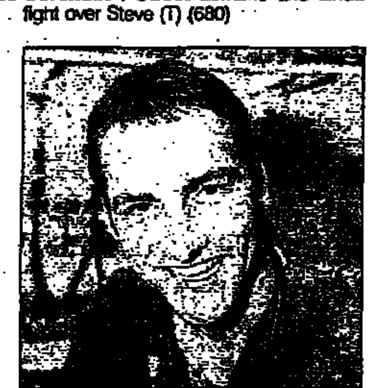


Nicole Kidman's acclaimed performance in *The Blue Room* (7pm)

7.00 The Laurence Olivier Awards Clive Anderson hosts the ceremony where notable nominations include Nicole Kidman for *The Blue Room*, Kevin Spacey for *The Iceman Cometh* and the musical *Saturday Night Fever* (T) (5776)
8.00 CHOICE **Raising the Roof** Undercover exposures of crooked businesses (4/6) (T) (5825)
8.30 Food and Drink Ken Hom prepares for the Chinese New Year (T) (7660)
9.00 Red Dwarf Holly's invention hurls the crew into a parallel universe (r) (T) (6776)
9.30 The League of Gentlemen The last of the comedy series (6/6) (T) (20405)
10.00 If I Ruled the World Political comedy quiz, with Clive Anderson (76196)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (515554)
11.15 Bookmark: Iris Murdoch, A Certain Lady Tribute to the late Iris Murdoch; Weatherview (398009)
12.00am Despatch Box Political news (64697)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Behind a Mask **1.30** The York Mystery Plays **2.00** Schools: Ghostwriter **4.00** Languages: Suenos — World Spanish 5-8 **5.00** Business and Training: Skills for Work — Getting into Europe **5.45** Open University: Pilgrimage — The Shrine at Loreto **6.10** Frederick the Great and Sans Souci **6.35** Taking Note

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (81937)
6.00 GMTV (8618806)
9.25 Trisha (T) (5349931)
10.30 This Morning (T) (11453738)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7022467)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (43757)
1.00 Shortland Street Ellen's mother walks out on her (94641)
1.30 Home and Away Robert makes his presence felt (T) (93298)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5767370)
2.45 Supermarket Sweep (T) (291486)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (9408432)
3.20 HTV News (T) (2658955)
3.25 CITV: Cartoon Time (6003202) **3.45** Captain Pugwash (3046825) **4.00** Oggy and the Cockroaches (3235776) **4.20** It's a Mystery (3211196) **4.45** Sabrina the Teenage Witch (5804979)
5.10 WEST: Getaways Gill Impey visits the Highbridge Secret World animal rescue centre (r) (T) (9112399)
5.10 WALES: Moneyspinners Fire brigade memorabilia (T) (9112399)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (444047)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (786776)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight; Weather (T) (623844)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (232252)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (196)
6.56 HTV Crimestoppers (810592)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Anthea Turner visits Ayers Rock in the Australian Outback (T) (6931)
7.30 Coronation Street Lorraine and Linda fight over Steve (T) (680)



Peter McGrane learns the outcome of his job interview (8pm)

8.00 Trauma Team Staff nurse Peter McGrane discovers whether or not he's got the permanent job (5/6) (T) (2979)
8.30 Carol Vorderman's Better Homes The team visit Cornwall (7/10) (T) (1486)
9.00 CHOICE **Forgotten** Psychological drama set in a sleepy Cotswolds town (1/3) (T) (8486)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (96950)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (830405)
10.40 Nash Bridges Old acquaintance Rick Bettina, now a bounty hunter, turns up out of the blue (T) (623912)
11.40 Midnight Caller One of Jack's regular callers "witnesses" a murder in her apartment (776863)
12.40am Football Extra Football League highlights (2827852)
1.40 World Football (r) (6148054)
2.10 The Pit and the Pendulum (1961) FILM Vincent Price plays a 16th-century nobleman who turns the tables on two lovers out to drive him mad. Horror, with Barbara Steele and John Kerr. Directed by Roger Corman (6342149)
3.35 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (9408158)
4.35 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (94891018)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (22852)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (8421399) **1.00 High Road** (94641) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1518660) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (292115) **3.20-3.25 Central News** (T) (2658955) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (9112399) **6.25-7.00 Central News;** Weather (T) (623844) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (830405) **10.40 Videotech: Brits Nominations Special** (r) (869776) **11.10 Nash Bridges** (T) (409554) **12.10am-12.45 Short Story Cinema** (2348719) **4.30 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (8970245) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (7250500)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (7022467) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (8439318) **1.00 High Road** (T) (94641) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1518660) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (292115) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (2658955) **5.08 Birthday People** (5207825) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9112399) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (12486) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (830405) **10.40 Videotech: Brits Nominations Special** (869776) **11.10 Nash Bridges** (T) (409554) **12.10am-12.40 Short Story Cinema** (r) (6814968)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7022467) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9112399) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (844) **6.30-7.00 Country Ways** (T) (196) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (830405) **11.40-12.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H** (776863) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (22852)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (8433134) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (8421399) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9112399) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (415776) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (737486) **6.50-7.00 Take It On** (543318) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (935641) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (830405) **11.40 Renegade** (659757) **12.30am-12.40 Soundtrax** (2288055)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (47094937) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (34013592) **9.00 The Bigger Breakfast;** (T) Saved by the Bell (29425950) **9.30 Sam and Max** (10195283) **9.55 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension** (T) (10103202) **10.25 Boy Meets World** (T) (57190370) **10.50 Moesha** (r) (T) (50846202) **11.20 Madison** (53104660) **11.45 The Bigger Breakfast** (59114221) **12.00pm Right to Reply** (T) (29412486) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (38050573) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (34023979) **1.30 Classic Aircraft** (8/8) (T) (38059844) **2.00 Time Team** (T) (79761405) **3.00 The Lost Gardens of Heligan** (6/6) (r) (T) (64465950) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (81955757) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (81967592) **4.30 The Montel Williams Show** (T) (81963776) **5.00 Planed Plant** (64444467) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (81954028) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (54259950) **6.10 Heno** (T) (16132757) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (64457931) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (81964405) **8.00 Dudley** (T) (64473979) **8.30 Pwy Di Pwy?** (T) (64452486) **9.00 Y Byd Ar Bedwar** (T) (40574080) **9.30 Sgorio** (T) (56882028) **10.35 FILM: Blame It on Rio** (13232196) **12.30am Rising Damp** (47479784) **1.00 In Search of Law and Order** (1/3) (49998500) **2.00 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.30am Rat-a-Tat-Tat (3771738)
5.45 The Pink Panther Show (9980825)
5.55 Sesame Street (3520931)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (99196)
9.00 The Bigger Breakfast; Saved by the Bell (80399)
9.30 Sam and Max (9374080)
9.55 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension (T) (9399399)
10.25 Boy Meets World (T) (1100863)
10.50 Moesha (r) (T) (2485979)
11.20 Madison (4810757)
11.45 The Bigger Breakfast (8511486)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (93863)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (43739)
1.00 Pet Rescue Highlights (T) (92283)
1.30 Travelog Treks Odessa (47822689)
1.45 Laughter in Paradise (1951) FILM Comedy about a deceased practical joker's four legacies, each with a sting in its tail. Directed by Mario Zampi (T) (54286196)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (202)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (739)
4.30 Countdown (T) (5874738)
4.55 Montel Williams (T) (3421641)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (573)
6.00 Roseanne (r) (T) (486)
6.30 Hollyoaks Finn and Carol are reunited (T) (738)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (391028)
7.50 Zoom Profile of the top designer John Galliano (T) (937028)
8.00 Riddle of the Skies An English photographer claims to have definitive video footage of a UFO (3/3) (T) (9592)
9.00 CHOICE **Cutting Edge** Visitors to Clapham Common share their views on life (T) (6028)



Romantic comedy with Michelle Johnson and Michael Caine (10pm)

10.00 Blame It on Rio (1983) FILM A man has a fling with his best friend's teenage daughter while on holiday in Rio de Janeiro. Comedy, starring Michael Caine. Directed by Stanley Donen (T) (487955)
11.55 Shooting Gallery: A-Z (964221)
12.15am The Hull to Hornsea A journey along a disused railway track (2992500)
12.25 Wee Three A trio of trouble-makers become trapped (2983852)
12.35 Spindrift The experiences of two homeless rent boys in London (8998448)
12.50 Bolt A singer scores a lucky break after being shot (8802697)
1.10 Dispatches (r) (T) (7353177)
1.40 Powerhouse Highlights (8948036)
2.10 Right to Reply (r) (T) (7703177)
2.40 The Client Reggie defends a student accused of murder (r) (3679158)
3.30 The Singing Trophy Short film about an obsessed hunter (96042719)
3.50 The Courtneys of Curzon Street (1947) FILM Drama telling the stories of various members of an upper-class family and their romantic entanglements. Directed by Herbert Wilcox (793528)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, sport and business (6470738)
7.00 WideWorld The lowdown on atoms, molecules and proteins (r) (T) (6845979)
7.30 Milkshake! (7195973)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r); 5 News Update (3090405)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (4873979)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (4865950)
9.00 Was It Good for You? (r) (4856202)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6936641)
10.20 Sunset Beach Sean saves Emily from a runaway truck (T) (1943134)
11.10 Leeza (4352757)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (4843738)
12.30 Family Affairs Clive regrets his passionate outburst (r) (T); 5 News Update (9888912)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Lauren lets on about Grant and Brooke (T) (6837950)
1.30 The Roseanne Show (9887283)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5033912)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine; 5 News Update (1686592)
3.30 Oh God! You Devil (1984) FILM George Burns, starring as both God and the Devil, battles to win the soul of a struggling rock musician. Comedy directed by Paul Bogart (T) (9670554)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (2849955)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (6290757)
6.30 Family Affairs Roy abducts Claire (T) (6281009)
7.00 5 News; Weather. Kirsty Young rounds up the day's stories (T) (5044028)
7.30 Malaysian Jungle Orphaned orang-utans are given a second chance of survival in their natural habitat in the forests of Malaysia (T) (6203221)
8.00 Instant Gardens Jac Flower transforms a garden, having only two days to breathe new life into the plot's rickety greenhouse, dilapidated pond and ugly patio (2/14) (T) (5053776)
8.30 CHOICE **Animal ER** New series. Salisbury vets go about their business (1/6) (T) (5032283)
9.00 Prison of Secrets (TVM 1996) FILM Fact-based drama about a new convict in a women's prison, who struggles to expose a corrupt system under which brutal guards demand sexual favours from her fellow inmates. Stephanie Zimbalist, Finola Hughes and Gary Frank star. Directed by Fred Gerber (T); 5 News Update (44361028)
10.40 Dr Fox's Chart Update (5959370)
10.45 Criminal Hearts (TVM 1995) FILM A woman picks up a seemingly harmless hitch-hiker who is actually on the run from FBI agents out to frame him for murder. Romantic thriller, starring Kevin Dillon. Directed by Dave Payne (47995592)
12.30am Live and Dangerous All-night sports magazine (54649090)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Wentworth gets a new governor, Dennis rescues a motorist in distress, and Marie resorts to blackmail (3056142)
5.20 Russell Grant's Postcards Pinewood Studios (39795516)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9762968)

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PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● *For further listings see Saturday's Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (59592) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (52221) **8.30** Grimm (15005) **9.00** Earthworm Jim (33689) **9.30** Flash Gordon (66221) **10.00** Miracles and Other Wonders (34283) **11.00** Guilty (54047) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (56644) **1.00** Mad About You (58363) **1.30** Jeopardy (35080) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (12573) **3.00** Jenny Jones (79592) **4.00** Guilty (64339) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (6196) **6.00** Guilty (8655) **6.30** Friends (4080) **7.00** The Simpsons (7825) **7.30** The Simpsons (3592) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (78581) **9.00** First Wave (95757) **10.00** South Park (10554) **10.30** Seinfeld (22202) **11.00** Friends (65028) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (20553) **12.30am** The Commish (16754) **1.30** Long Play (7417210)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 56) **Double Team (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Fools Rush In (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Paws (1998)** **Boogie Nights (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **In and Out (1997)**

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Les Enfants Du Paradis (1945) (56263660) **9.40** The Sacrifice Room (2414221) **10.00 Vanya on 42nd Street (1994)** (4953554) **12.00am Bullets Over Broadway (1994)** (3031852) **1.40 Panther (1995)** (5943055) **3.40 Twelve Monkeys (1995)** (44659964) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Angels in the Attic (1997) (74560) **8.00 Fly Away Home (1996)** (26757) **10.00 Matilda (1996)** (45467) **12.00pm Angels in the Attic (1997)** (04318) **2.00 All Dogs Go to Heaven II (1996)** (16757) **3.30** Barry Norman's Film Night (7554) **4.00 Fly Away Home (1996)** (2376) **6.00 Matilda (1996)** (30202) **8.00 The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997)** (3315221) **10.10 Chain Reaction (1996)** (976912) **12.00am A Modern Affair (1994)** (340239) **1.35 Awakenings (1990)** (844177) **3.35 Last Stand at Saber River (1997)** (71200852)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.15am The Fallen Sparrow (1943) (18203660) **7.00** Femmes Fatales: Julia Roberts (44660) **7.30** Movie Magic: Fine-Tooning (5688202) **8.15** Action Heroes: Sean Connery (8809680) **9.00 Dogmatic (1996)** (23689) **11.00 Born Free: A New Adventure (1996)** (78991) **1.00pm** Femmes Fatales: Julia Roberts (43931) **1.30** Movie Magic: Fine-Tooning (9397660) **2.15** Action Heroes: Sean Connery (2435370) **3.00 Dogmatic (1996)** (31979) **5.00 Born Free: A New Adventure (1996)** (25486) **7.00 Smokey and the Bandit (1977)** (31196) **9.00 Alien Abduction: The McPherson Tape (1997)** (57496) **11.00 Kiss of a Stranger (1997)** (130318) **12.35am Lethal Tender (1996)** (110210) **2.10 Every Nine Seconds (1997)** (9891871) **3.40 The First Deadly Sin (1980)** (358871)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Sherlock Holmes in Washington (1943) (4268912) **5.30** Hollywood Hall of Fame: Marilyn's Suicide (3225047) **6.00 Romanoff and Juliet (1961)** (1382641) **8.00 Spellbound (1945)** (1994486) **10.00 The Last Hard Men (1976)** (7854318) **11.40 Blume in Love (1973)** (7271738) **1.35am Quintet (1979)** (5027185) **3.35 Spellbound (1945)** (83862789)

TNT

9.00pm No Guts, No Glory: 75 Years of Award Winners (92037592) **10.00 Casablanca (1942)** (17380283) **12.00am The Best House in London (1969)** (64569535) **1.45 Dirty Dingus Magee (1970)** (21044622) **3.30 Village of the Damned (1960)** (16825142) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Max Power **8.00** Scottish Cup Football **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style **10.00** Snow Show **10.30** Rugby League **12.00pm** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30** What a Weekend **1.00** FA Cup Football Special **2.30** Spanish Football **4.30** What a Weekend **5.00** Max Power **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** What a Weekend **7.00** Football League Review **8.00** Monday Night Football Special **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Football League Review **12.00am** Sports Centre **12.15** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Monday Night Football Special **3.00** Football League Review **4.00** Sports Centre **4.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Racing News **8.00** Motor Racing **10.30** US Golf: Buick Invitational **1.00pm** Squash **2.00** Live Snooker: Scottish Open **5.00** Football League Review **6.00** Powerboat and Jetski World **6.30** V-Max **7.00** Live Snooker: Scottish Open **10.00** Total Sport **10.30** V-Max **11.00** Squash **12.00am** World Motor Sport **3.00** Sports Centre **3.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm International Cricket **2.30** Motor Racing **5.00** Snow Show **6.00** Fish TV **7.00** World Motor Sport **10.00** Wonderful World of Golf **11.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing: A to Z of Motor Sport **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally **8.00** Indoor Athletics **9.00** Women's Biathlon **10.00** Alpine Skiing **11.00** Rally **11.30** Luge **1.00pm** Tennis **2.30** Biathlon **4.00** Alpine Skiing **5.00** Luge **5.30** Stock Car **7.00** Extreme Sports **8.00** Trial **9.00** Boxing **10.00** Football: Eurogoals **11.30** Tractor Pulling **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Detectives **9.00** Casualty **10.05** Hamish Macbeth **11.10** Sports Anorak of the Year **11.45** The Bill **12.15am** The Bill **12.45** Spender **1.45** Ivanhoe **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Bowler **7.30** Doctor in the House **8.00** Beadle's About **8.30** The Fosters **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs Downstairs **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Pig in the Middle **2.00** Upstairs Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** The Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** The Comedians **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Men and Motors



The beasts are back in Steven Spielberg's blockbuster sequel *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* (Sky Premier, 8pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.30** PB and J Otter **7.00** 101 Dalmatians, Double Bill **8.00** Hercules: The TV Show — Double Bill **9.00** Art Attack **9.30** Disney's Doug **10.00** Recess **10.15** Pepper Ann **10.30** Smart Guy **11.00** Crash Zone **11.30** Boy Meets World **12.00pm** Student Bodies **12.30** Dinosaurs **1.00** Amazing Animals **1.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.15** PB and J Otter **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: The Sword in the Stone (1963)** **8.15** Dinosaurs: Double Bill **9.00** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.45** Home Improvement **10.15** Mega Movie Magic **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **12.00am** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Masked Rider **6.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **6.55** Power Rangers Turbo **7.20** Power Rangers Turbo **7.45** Bureau of Alien Detectors **8.10** Mortal Kombat **8.35** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **9.00** Goosebumps **9.25** Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension **9.50** Home to Rent **10.00** Sam and Max **10.25** Mad Jack the Pirate **10.50** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **11.00** Life with Louie **11.25** C-Bear and Jamal **11.50** Ace Ventura or Sam and Max **1.55pm** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** The Big Half-Term Event **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spiderman **4.25** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** EekIStravaganza **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life **7.00** Angry Beavers **7.30** Angry Beavers **8.00** CatDog **8.30** CatDog **9.00** Rugrats **9.30** Rugrats **10.00** The Wild Thornberrys **10.30** The Wild Thornberrys **11.00** Kenan and Kel **11.30** Kenan and Kel **12.00pm** Moesha **12.30** Moesha **1.00** The Journey of Allen Strange **1.30** The Journey of Allen Strange **2.00** Doug **2.30** Doug **3.00** Rugrats **3.30** Rugrats **4.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **4.30** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **5.00** Sister Sister **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempestt **9.50** On the Make **10.00** Saved by the Bell **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** Ready or Not **12.00pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30** In the House **1.00** Sweat **1.30** Tempestt **2.20** On the Make **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** USA High **6.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** Sweat **7.30** Hang Time

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** LAPD **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00** *FILM: Deathline (1972)* **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.35** Erotic Series **2.05** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.35** Cops **3.05 FILM: Screwballs (1983)** **5.00** LAPD **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** NewsRadio **9.00** Whose Line is it Anyway? **9.30** Drop the Dead Donkey **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** The Cape **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00** Asteroid **11.45** Sci-Focus Special **12.00am** Tales of the Unexpected **12.30** Tales of the Unexpected **1.00 FILM: Memory Run (1994)** **2.40** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Craftwise **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** Potted History with Antony Henn **10.00** Real Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** The Diceman **11.30** Fishing Australia **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Specials **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Wheel Nuts **5.30** Treasure Hunters **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Secrets of the Deep **7.30** The Elegant Solution **8.00** Nick's Quest **8.30** The Supernatural **9.00** Chasers of Tornado Alley **10.00** The Andes **11.00** Three Minutes to Impact: Part One **12.00am** Three Minutes to Impact: Part Two **1.00** Treasure Hunters **1.30** Wheel Nuts

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Animal X **12.30** Ocean Wilds **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** *Deadly Australians* **2.00** *It's a Vet's Life* **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Deadly Australians **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Going Wild with Jeff Corwin **9.00** Wild at Heart **9.30** *Emergency Vets* **10.00** *The Rat Among Us* **11.00** Breed All About It: Afghan Hounds **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Elephant Island **7.30** Hong Kong Jitters **8.00** Tigers of the Snow **9.00** Nature's Fury **10.00** Lost Worlds: Who Built the Pyramids? **10.30** Lost Worlds: Ice Tombs of Siberia **11.00** Lost Worlds: Pompeii **12.00am** On the Edge: Farming Through the Arctic Night

HISTORY

4.00pm The Civil War: The Arts of Death **5.00** Lighter Than Air: Airships Go to War **6.00** China's Wall of Doom **7.00** Show Business: Minstrels to Megastars **7.30** Giants of Sport: Swinging Sixties

CARLTON FOOD

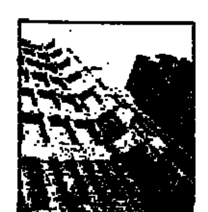
9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Chef on a Shoestring **10.00** Restaurant Show **10.30** Alive and Cooking **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Winter Nosh **1.00** Chef on a Shoestring **1.30** Tessa's Tastebuds **2.00** Lunch with Ed Baines **2.30** *Food Network Daily* **3.00** *Jenny Bristow* **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** Ross in Thailand **4.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Johnson and Friends **6.30** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.40** Tiny Tales **6.45** Philbert the Frog **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Caillou **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** Roseanne Show **10.00** Jerry Springer **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolonda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** *Animal Rescue* **8.10** *Maury Povich* **9.00 FILM: Women with a Past (TVM 1992)** **11.30** Sex Life Down Under **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

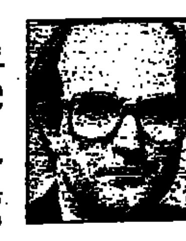
5.00am Amar Kathayen **5.30** Music Time **6.00** Your Zindagi **6.30** Geet Gata Chal **7.00** Faith Hindu **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Jaan **9.30** Bane Bi Apni Baat **10.00** Pal-Do-Pal **11.00** Jhat Pat Khana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm** **FILM** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Kile Pe Gola **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Quiz Contest **5.00** Daastan **5.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **6.00** Music Mag **6.30** Teacher **7.00** Ghar Jamai **7.30** Filmi Baatein **8.00** News **8.30** Gumrah **9.00** Sa Re Ga Ma **10.00** The Big Debate **11.00** Shapath **11.30** Stunt Two **12.00am** News **12.30** Aap ki Adalat **1.00** Zee Bang **1.30** Raahat **2.00** **FILM** **4.30** Ebar Jomo Uthbe



PROFILE 37 Getting the lie of Land Secs

BUSINESS

SURVEYS 41 Roger Bootle offers a warning



Recession is already upon us, says think-tank

By Our Economics Correspondent

THE economy is likely to be already in recession because of a fall in demand both at home and abroad, a leading think-tank said today. It also argued that there was little that the Chancellor can do in his March Budget to ease the slump this year.

Oxford Economic Forecasting and the London Business School said the economy is likely to contract in both the first and second quarters of this year, thus fulfilling the definition of a "technical" recession. Growth for the year would be about 0.4 per cent, compared with 2.5 per cent in 1998, it said.

The full-year forecast is broadly in line with forecasts by City economists but below the growth of between 1 per cent and 1.5 per cent predicted by the Treasury.

"With world trade growth falling from over 10 per cent in 1997 to around 5 per cent now, we expect net trade to cut another one percentage point off GDP growth in 1999," OEF said.

Domestic demand growth, too, had slowed sharply to its lowest level since 1992, with consumer demand "disappointing", it said, predicting unemployment would rise from 4.6 per cent of the workforce now to 5.5 per cent by the end of the year and 6.2 per cent by the end of 2000.

But, the forecast said, there were good reasons for expecting the recession to be much milder than in 1990-91.

Inflation was only a quarter the level of 1990, interest rates were already much lower than at the beginning of the last recession and household finances were not overstretched as they were a decade ago, which led to households cutting spending to repay debt, it said. Interest rates should fall from the current level of 5.5 per cent to 5 per cent by the summer, it said, but there was no reason why rates could not go lower if activity turned out to be weaker than expected.

The OEF/LBS expects Gordon Brown's Budget on March 9 to be broadly neutral in fiscal policy terms with any headline-grabbing tax cuts matched by increases elsewhere.

But the slowing economy would push public finances from a small surplus in the current fiscal year to sizeable deficits over the next two years, it said. "Our forecasts suggest that, as long as the recession is shallow, the Government should be able to muddle through these fiscal challenges without having to raise taxes.

"But with a more pronounced downturn, something could well have to give. It is ironic that by handing control of interest rates to the (Bank of England), the Chancellor may have lost room for manoeuvre on fiscal policy too."

Germany will propose an institution to counteract erratic foreign exchange markets when officials of the Group of Seven industrialised countries meet in Bonn at the weekend. The plan, devised by Germany's Finance Ministry, envisages an institution composed of G7 finance ministers and central bank governors. It would watch for excessive swings in all financial markets, but especially in foreign exchange markets.

The ministry will suggest that the institution would convene to assess whether economic corrective measures were needed in the event of significant fluctuations in the foreign exchange markets. It might also consider fines for speculative trades.

British Steel poised to defy Schröder

By Paul Armstrong and Sigrid Aufterbeck

BRITISH STEEL threatens to ignite a row between Britain and Germany by launching a fresh bid for Salzgitter, the troubled German steel manufacturer, just one year after its original bid was scuppered by Gerhard Schröder.

The German Chancellor led a vocal campaign against British Steel's first bid for Salzgitter in January 1998, when he was state premier in Lower Saxony.

Threatened with deepening losses caused by depressed steel prices, Salzgitter was forced to search for an outside investor to avert collapse. British Steel and Voest Alpine, the Austrian steel group, were quick to respond, but Herr Schröder vetoed any deal and organised a state-sponsored rescue. He initiated a public takeover of Salzgitter on the ground that its foreign suitors planned to slash its workforce.

Now the UK group is deciding whether to make a fresh offer after learning last week that the German group was in merger talks with the Arbed steel company of Belgium.

A British Steel spokesman said: "It is potentially interesting news that a large proportion of the company may now be available. Whether we would want to take advantage of that is something I am less able to comment on."

But it is understood that British Steel remains attracted to Salzgitter and had its hopes rekindled by its willingness to negotiate with Arbed.

Salzgitter's share register now hosts NordLB, a publicly owned bank, as a 39 per cent shareholder and Niedersachsen Region, a state body, with 26 per cent. The remaining 35 per cent is controlled by private interests. "NordLB is known not to be interested in being a long-term investor in Salzgitter," one source said.

It was unclear at the weekend how far Arbed had progressed in its talks with Salzgitter, with some analysts believing that the Belgian group was making its negotiations appear more advanced than they were. They said there were large question marks over Arbed's financial ability to buy Salzgitter, particularly because publicly owned German groups were unlikely to want scrip in a foreign steel company.

Salzgitter produces about five million tonnes of steel a year, compared with Arbed's 20 million tonnes and British Steel's 16 million tonnes. The world's biggest producers, Nippon Steel of Japan and Posco of South Korea, are running at annual rates of about 26 million tonnes.

British Steel has cash reserves of about £400 million and an undrawn credit line of £200 million. Analysts said it would have little difficulty swallowing a mill of Salzgitter's size, although the market would be concerned about its lack of dividend cover.

A wide belief that the company will retain its dividend despite the brutal steel environment is cited as the key reason for the stock not falling further. Analysts are tipping British Steel to record a loss of up to £200 million in the year to March 31 despite making a £104 million first-half profit.

The deficit is expected to rise to as much as £300 million next year. But many are forecasting that a recovery in steel prices will foster a turnaround in earnings in 2001. The shares plunged from 172p in May to a low of 87p in December. They closed on Friday at 129p.



IG Metall, which represents 3.2 million metal and engineering workers, will give a mediator 48 hours to resolve its dispute

Germany faces strike deadline

From A Correspondent in Frankfurt

GERMANY'S most powerful union yesterday moved closer to a national strike in a dispute over pay.

IG Metall, which represents 3.2 million metal and engineering workers, has demanded a pay rise of 6.5 per cent. Employers have offered 2.3 per cent plus up to 0.5 per cent in one-off, profit-linked payments.

Yesterday the union said it would give a mediator just 48 hours to resolve the dispute. If this failed, and the odds are stacked heavily against Hans-Jochen Vogel, a former Justice Minister, workers in the Baden-Wuerttemberg region, the powerhouse of German industry and home to Porsche and Audi, would be asked to vote in a strike referendum next week. If 75 per cent approve, the strike could start early next month.

Hundreds of thousands of IG Metall members have taken part in work stoppages across the country in the past few days.

On Friday Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, sent a letter to both sides, warning them of the possible consequences of an open conflict at a time when the German economy is weakening.

Herr Schröder is concerned that the strike ballot is due to take place just before a meeting between the German Government and employers to draw up an employment pact, which is a central weapon in his fight against unemployment and featured prominently in his election campaign last year.

Economists have voiced fears that widescale strikes could wreck Herr Schröder's round-table Alliance for Jobs project, which aims to involve both employers and unions in efforts to cut the double-digit unemployment rate.

Crisis talks at Royal Ordnance

By Martin Barrow

UNIONS will today hold meetings with senior managers of British Aerospace to discuss the future of Royal Ordnance, the company's loss-making munitions subsidiary.

Representatives of Royal Ordnance's 4,000 workers from all ten UK plants have been summoned to a meeting at Leyland, Lancashire.

The talks take place amid grave concern over the future of the business. BAe has indicated that Royal Ordnance cannot survive for more than six months in its current form. A union source said: "Management are expected to give a presentation on the problems confronting the company and the steps the company thinks will be necessary to avoid its collapse."

BAe had hoped to merge Royal Ordnance in a joint venture with Germany's Rheinmetall. However, talks failed to make progress and BAe may soon close plants to stem losses. Last week Rheinmetall said it was interested in taking over Royal Ordnance but BAe said no formal proposal had been received.

The crisis arises from a decision by the Ministry of Defence to buy cheaper ammunition from overseas. Britain has cut annual spending on purchases from Royal Ordnance to £150 million from £350 million since BAe bought the business from the Government ten years ago.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1641

ACROSS
- 1 Stay; await (one's time) (4)
- 3 Mail received (7)
- 8 Narrow-minded (7)
- 9 Conform, concur (5)
- 10 Laughing animal (5)
- 11 "England —" (Nelson) (7)
- 13 Neither gain nor lose (5,4)
- 17 *Bartered Bride* composer (7)
- 19 Barrie's *Pan*, Potter's *Rabbit* (5)
- 20 Mean house (5)
- 22 A French dynasty: a whiskey (7)
- 23 Stage performer (7)
- 24 Jacob's first wife (*Gen. 29*) (4)

DOWN
- 1 Well-lit: intelligent (6)
- 2 Pretend: hypocritically conceal (9)
- 3 Dorset building stone (7,6)
- 4 Overwhelm: bog (5)
- 5 Prohibit: pub (3)
- 6 Lubricate: melted fat (6)
- 7 Minor corruption (6)
- 12 Policeman: a painter (9)
- 14 Gas, cloud (6)
- 15 Breathing disorder (6)
- 16 Spanner: twist violently (6)
- 18 Map book (5)
- 21 Tub (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1640

ACROSS: 3 Detritus 7 Voyage 8 Caries 9 Joshua 10 Pick up 11 Cons 13 Stave 15 Pros 17 Patter 18 Turtle 19 Bookie 20 Groggy 21 Elongate

DOWN: 1 Rococo 2 Pathos 3 Default 4 Realise 5 Thick ear 6 Sisyphus 11 Culpable 12 Nostromo 13 Stewing 14 Vestige 15 Pardon 16 Oblige

Electra investors seek bid strategy

By Robert Cole, City Correspondent

MICHAEL STODDART, the chairman of Electra Investment Trust, will come under pressure this week to set out plans to enhance shareholder value as fears grow over the fate of 3i's proposed £1.2 billion takeover bid.

Shareholders hope that Mr Stoddart will identify an American counter bidder or outline plans to wind up the investment trust and return capital to investors.

Electra shares surged 120p to 670p last month when 3i, the rival venture capitalist, said it was considering making an offer for Electra.

However, 3i has yet to make a formal offer and relations between the two sides have soured, narrowing the likelihood of a friendly takeover or merger.

Disagreement between Electra and 3i centres on the continuing role of the Electra fund management team and on an accurate value for the trust. Electra managers are employed by Electra Fleming, which is jointly owned by the investment trust and by Robert Fleming, the investment group. 3i is concerned the value of Electra would be significantly impaired if it could not retain the management team.

Alarmed by the threat of a fall in Electra shares should 3i fail to bid, investors want Mr Stoddart, who has deferred his retirement until the impasse is resolved, to set out alternative proposals at Wednesday's annual meeting in London.

Hundreds of anxious investors are set to attend, prompting Electra to switch the venue from the Howard Hotel to larger facilities at the Savoy.

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE NHS

THE National Health Service has an annual turnover of £37 billion and employs 820,000 people. Yet as a business it is in trouble. So *The Times* has asked captains of industry to say how they would deal with its problems. How can the NHS reconcile ever-increasing customer demands with a limited budget? Can it pay for wonder drugs such as Viagra? This week in Business News respected executives from the private sector give their prescriptions for the NHS. Today, on page 42, Sir David Barnes, of AstraZeneca, makes a plea for a radical new way to fund the health service, while tomorrow Greg Dyke outlines his vision of how the NHS must shape up for the millennium.

Consumers urged to demand refunds

War on Windows

From Andrew Butcher in New York

WHILE the US Justice Department duels with Bill Gates in the courts, a band of angry computer users will today start an Internet war on Microsoft.

Organisers of the first ever Windows Refund Day have taken to the Internet to urge computer buyers wordwide to demand a refund for unwanted software built in to most new computers.

The organisers represent a coalition of consumer groups who favour software other than Microsoft's Windows and resent paying for the program that is present on about 95 per cent of PCs.

The refund day was inspired by the success of Geoffrey Bennett, an Australian computer systems manager, who last year got money back from Toshiba for the unwanted Windows that came with his new PC. Mr Bennett said: "I didn't want to pay for a copy of Microsoft Windows if I wasn't going to use it. It adds to the price of a new computer and is useless to me."

After four months of arguing, Toshiba finally gave Mr Bennett a cheque for A$110 (£43.50) as a refund for the unloved Windows. Mr Bennett said his success had attracted thousands of people to his Internet website, which explains the problems he faced in getting a refund.

The refund day underscores the public relations problems Microsoft faces with consumers, as well as regulators. Mr Gates and his wife, Melinda, recently donated $3.3 billion to health and education programmes for the world's poor, but the extraordinary philanthropy has been largely overshadowed by scattered outbreaks of consumer revolt and Microsoft's trial on charges of illegally crushing competition on the Internet.